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THE NEXUS BETWEEN USAID-FUNDED FOOD SECURITY PROGRAMS AND POSITIVE PEACE: A CASE OF ENSURE PROGRAM, BUHERA

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DECLARATION

I, Silent Tapiwanashe Besa the author of this thesis, hereby declare that the work contained in this dissertation is entirely a product of my own original work with the exception of such quotations or data that have been indicated and acknowledged by means of complete references. Participants of this research were not compelled to participate and did so voluntarily. I further declare that the work embodied in this dissertation has not been previously submitted and will not be presented at any other university for a similar or any other degree award.

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to my diligent mother Mrs A. Besa for her tireless support and exceptional bravery. Your efforts and dedication have contributed to my academic success, no one knew the struggle you were facing. It was you alone through the roughest of times and God was your only help but deep inside your heart you had a vision of where I was destined. Oh yes you are the greatest mother, in two words I want to say thank you!

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ASTRACT

This research constitutes one of the first attempts to provide a comprehensive review of the circular relationship between food security and positive peace. It offers some insights on the impact of food security on positive peace and its related development outcomes and how the absence of positive peace contributes to food insecurity. This way it is possible to look beyond income, entitlements or livelihoods related-frameworks as the drivers of food insecurity. Food insecurity can be a result of ineffective governance, lack of sound business environments or low levels of human capital in any given society among other key indicators of positive peace. In countries like Zimbabwe the physical traces of conflict are no longer visible but people are not yet at peace, they are fighting diseases, unemployment, social injustice, abject poverty and in this study food insecurity is identified as another problem denying societies to enjoy positive peace. This stimulates many to ask the question; Even if societies are out of physical/direct violence, does it mean positive peace prevail? Definitely no! Enjoyment of various human needs including food under an environment that ensures human security and development guarantees and builds positive peace. In this study the researcher examined the USAID-funded food security program (ENSURE) in Buhera district in Zimbabwe to find out the factors that binds the nexus in question. USAID-funded programs exhibit some components which strengthen positive peace where it is seen to be absent through their systemic approaches to robustly address the root causes of food insecurity. In the district of Buhera where World Vision is the implementing partner the lack of institutions, structures and attitudes that underpins the existence of positive peace was also identified as the contributing factor to the district's recurrent food crises. This thesis challenges development agencies, policy makers, NGOs and governments to shift from the broad and historic understanding of peace but thrive to address complex challenges that the world faces today such as food insecurity through the lens of positive peace. Positive peace provides a framework to understand the ideal transformational approaches that can be used for better outcomes in the quest to achieve food security in marginalized and vulnerable communities. Positive peace allowed the researcher to situate the study within the narrow emphasis of people's well-being or life with quality that any given society desires to have. To the best knowledge of the researcher, no paper has yet provided a detailed survey on the nexus between food security and positive peace in this 21st century.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

AGRITEX	Agricultural Technical and Extension Services
AMC	Asset Management Committee
CARE	Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere
CPU	Civil Protection Unit
DMC	Disaster Management Committee
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EMA	Environmental Management Agency
ENSURE	Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise
ECSs	Environmental Sub-Committees
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organisation
FDGs	Focus Group Discussions
FFP	United States Agency For International Development Office Of Food for Peace
FSC	Food Security Council
GoZ	Government of Zimbabwe
ICRISAT	International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics
IEP	Institute of Economics and Peace
MoHCC	Ministry of Health and Child Care
MWAGCD	Ministry of Women Affairs Gender and Community Development
NGOs	Non GovernmentalOrganisations
NRM	Natural Resource Management
RDC	Rural District Council
SAFIRE	Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources
SNV	Netherlands Development Organisation
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VSLs	Village Saving and Lending
WFP	World Food Programme
WMC	Water Management Committee
WV	World Vision

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<div align="center">**Chapter One**</div>

<div align="center">**RESEARCH PROBLEM AND ITS SETTING**</div>

1.1 Introduction

The chapter shall introduce the basis of the research by giving a background to the study which is a situational problem that stimulated the need to undertake the research. More so the chapter gives a detailed statement of the problem that is the evidence that food insecurity in Buhera is threatened by the lack of positive peace and also the fact that for positive peace to prevail food security is vital. Furthermore under the theoretical frameworks the chapter exhibits the theories which are the most ideal to the topic understudy, the theory which is rooted from peace psychology (human needs theory) gives a comprehensive understanding of the nexus between the two variables i.e. food security and positive peace and also the positive peace theory that completes the gaps. Key terms of the research topic are also conceptualized in this chapter beyond mere definitions so that the terms are not understood in the general sense but in a context specific scenario. Aims and objectives of the research are discussed so as to give direction to the research and the outcomes which were anticipated on the onset of the study. This chapter also highlights the limitations as these help in ascertaining the validity of the research since it helps in measuring the degree of success of the study by judging what was accomplished from what was expected. A chapter summary will end the chapter by compressing the issues discussed hence giving highlights about the chapter.

1.2 Background to the study

In the recent times it has become increasingly evident that though some countries globally including Zimbabwe are regarded as peaceful countries, their societies seem to have never fully enjoyed positive peace since the colonial era worse to talk of the rural masses. A workshop coordinated by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) in 2015 in Zimbabwe concluded and established the fact that positive peace pillars in Zimbabwe were very weak and needed to be strengthened (Positive Peace Report, 2015:71). Importantly, governments are increasingly considering food as a matter of national security which is related to positive peace. The fright of food insecurity is seen as the basis why governments are advocating for self-sufficiency policies (Burchi and De Muro: 2012). The food insecurity situation in the district of Buhera cannot be attributed to a single factor but suffers a pendulum or systemic effect coupled

with climatic conditions prevalent in Buhera, current harsh economic conditions facing Zimbabwe, the poor agro-ecological regions in which Buhera falls under, government neglect and obviously a series of droughts that have ravaged the whole country leaving Zimbabweans shaken and insecure since the turn of the new millennium yet villagers in Buhera are less resilient due to low coping capacities. Global Peace Index (2016:5) stresses that peace creates resilience meaning to say resilient communities are likely to be at peace. Thus food security programs that promote resilience are key building blocks for any sustained response to lack of positive peace in protracted situations. Burchi and De Muro (2012), understood that food security is determined by capability thus analysis of food entitlements, basic nutritional capabilities and the capability to be food secure are key in addressing food challenges. The capability approach they propounded relates well with the systemic nature of positive peace facets.

In the past decade Zimbabwe's domestic food supply has failed to meet the requirement of the country's population. According to ZIMVAC (2014) Buhera ranked amongst the most 10 districts with food insecure households. At the time of writing the district is also targeted under the UNDP Resilience Building Fund program which aims to strengthen the most 10 vulnerable districts in the country through a comprehensive approach to counter stresses and shockers that leave communities vulnerable. WFP (2016) projected in the Global Hunger Index of 2016 that Zimbabwe's hunger status was classified as 'serious' in 2015 yet Zimbabwe's economy is mainly agro-based with more than 75% of the population relying on agriculture for a living (World Food Programme, 2012). According to Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report (2015) Buhera falls in Agro-ecological Regions III, IV and V with rainfall and agricultural productivity decreasing from region I to V thus all these factors are responsible for causing hunger and exacerbating vulnerability which limits human potential.

Acute food insecurity, such as that resulting from the successive droughts and crop failure combined with political and economic marginalization has countervailing effects on human security at the same time it can be a source of motivation for violence in all its forms hence posing a threat to peace. It can also significantly diminish the aggrieved population's ability to withstand shocks and stress which inhibits their potential to flourish. According to Gilman (1997) hunger and poverty are two prime examples of what is described as structural violence that is physical and psychological harm that results from exploitative, social, political and economic systems. Structural violence is a term that is commonly ascribed to Johan Galtung, which he introduced (1969) articulating the hidden violence in the midst of societies. It refers to a form of violence wherein some social structure or social institutions may harm

people by preventing them from meeting their basic needs. Unlike physical violence, structural violence is subtle, often invisible, and often has no one specific person/institution that can be held responsible since it is systemic.

According to ZIMVAC report (2012) Buhera had high levels of stunting in children under five above the national average with 35% and food insecure population at 27%. On the backdrop of this, in 2012 World Vision International and its sub-recipients, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, (CARE), Southern Alliance for Indigenous Resources (SAFIRE), SNV (Netherlands Development Organization) and International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT),proposed to implement a USAID-funded Title II Development Food Assistance Program, *Enhancing Nutrition, Stepping Up Resilience and Enterprise* (ENSURE).

According to USAID (2015) Title II projects partners are compelled to maintain the vision of the Food For Peace (FFP) strategic plan i.e. "A world free from hunger and poverty, where people live in dignity, peace, and security." In late 2012 a Demographic and Health Survey to target the program to 8 wards in Buhera was conducted affording wards 11, 12, 17, 19, 25, 26, 27 and 29 beneficiary statuses. ENSURE's goal and objectives is to strategically (i) improve nutrition among women of reproductive age (WRA) under strategic objective 1 (SO1), pregnant and lactating women (PLW), and children under five (CU5); (ii) increasing household and micro-enterprise productivity and income through market-oriented approaches (SO2); and (iii) increasing household resilience to shocks (SO3). The program in partnership with various government technical departments is addressing many of the underlying causes of chronic food insecurity by improving knowledge, capacity, and links to produce food and generate income, maintain and optimally use agricultural assets, and facilitate household savings.

These models have demonstrated an ability to engage the most vulnerable community members and relevant stakeholders across all walks of life to improve their resilience to shocks, thus capacitating them for the future. Thus all these efforts to improve food security can reduce tensions, structural violence and contribute to more stable and peaceful environments where human potential can flourish. Levy and Scobie (2015) argued that all forms of violence both physical and structural (sometimes psychological) undermines human well-being and can reduce the ability of societies to achieve development. They also stated that SDG 16 is strongly linked to other goals in that peace, justice, accountability inclusion and fit-for purpose institutions have the potential to influence everything else and in turn influenced by everything else. Thus for the attainment of a peaceful environment a systemic approach like that of

ENSURE is ideal since it provides a buffer from hunger and from hopelessness hence fostering a sense of stability.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Buhera is ranked among other districts in Zimbabwe which have been mired with high levels of food insecurity (ZIMVAC, 2014) which is tantamount to the absence of positive peace. According to FAO (2013) a stable, peaceful environment is the foundation for lasting food security and sustainable livelihoods hence showing that where there is food insecurity positive peace is likely to be absent. What is of great concern is that rural communities in Zimbabwe are renowned for sustaining negative peace yet the promotion of positive peace is key to leverage development and addressing food insecurity. Santhirasegaram (2008:807) postulated that positive peace is needed in Zimbabwe because it reduces or eliminates uncertainties and risks in the process of promoting sustainable development.

It is logical to state that the discourse on peace will only become sensible in a context especially when there is physical violence because it manifests clearly unlike structural violence which needs a microscopic and psychological view to recognize. It is therefore ideal to address the problem of structural violence positively by identifying lacking needs and devise an approach to create an enabling environment where needs can be achieved. Traditionally and universally peace has been viewed as the absence of direct violence or war. Researches show that war kills millions and also not to withstand the obstinate fact that hunger and under nutrition kills millions also in places where there is no direct violence hence populations experiencing hunger are fighting an indirect conflict and never enjoy peacefulness.

This gap in the literature needs to be filled in order to change the detrimental circumstances of high levels of food insecurity in societies and in particular Buhera to the ideal conditions of positive peace. Analyzing food insecurity through the positive peace approach allows a more comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon. The research also challenges the widely subscribed perception on peace loosely as the absence of conflict and violence and holds the view that NGO interventions have other deliverables which are seemingly overlooked. It is important to emphasize that USAID and World Vision's entry point is to address food insecurity but their calibrated approach to quench the problem comes with other positive benefits.

1.4 Theoretical frameworks

The research is hinged on two broad theories applicable in peace studies which are the human needs theory and the positive peace theory. These theories worked perfectly in guiding the arguments and viewpoints of the research as they dovetail each other in justifying the viability of the research.

1.4.1 Human Needs Theory

The human needs theory strongly influences this research since its psychological dimension on peace relates with the problems in Buhera. Christie (1997) drawing from Maslow's hierarchy of needs put forward this theory in the study of peace arguing that the needs theory helps explain why needs for security and identity are often grievances in direct and structural violence. The theory holds that conflict and violence are likely to occur in an environment where people's basic physiological and psychological needs are unmet or neglected. In this research food is one of the other human needs which many are deprived of in Buhera. For peace psychologists lack of human needs lead to structural violence which is a threat to the enjoyment of human needs. Unlike human interests, human needs are non-negotiable.

According to CEPAL and WFP (2007) food and nutrition assistance is critical for development of individuals and societies hence human needs are critical for development. Christie further advances that a just and sustainable peace will require the equitable satisfaction of human needs for security, identity, well-being and self-determination. The theory is particularly relevant to the Zimbabwean setting because it offers valuable insights into the peace building processes needed in addressing all forms of violence including direct and structural violence. Danielsen (2005) stressed that the human needs theory is based on the hypothesis that all people have universal needs that are supposed to be satisfied or met in order to establish and sustain peaceful societies. Similarly, during the second half of the 1970s the International Labour Organisation (ILO) came up with a new model of development, the basic needs approach. The intention was to incorporate other non-economic dimensions of development in peace processes (ILO, 1976). According to Burchi and De Muro (2012), advocates of the basic needs approach viewed development as a process that aimed to ensure to all the people the satisfaction of their basic needs of which food is the most important. Stewart (1985), stresses that the fulfillment of basic needs is a precondition for 'full life'.

Like Christie, Burton (1993) one of the pioneers of the theory is of the view that peace is threatened as a result of institutions and social norms being incompatible with inherent human needs, hence the needs that

are frustrated by these institutions need satisfaction. As propounded in this theory USAID and its partners carried out needs assessment before the program was launched to identify areas of acute nutritional need and the underlying driving factors to inform programmatic responses which aim to make these needs realized to promote peace and tranquility hence the enjoyment of basic needs leads to positive peace. In the case of Buhera the researcher argues that the theory can be used to trace and explain the state of food security and positive peace.

1.4.2 Positive Peace Theory

Johan Galtung proposed the positive peace theory in 1964 in the Journal of Peace Research, where he confronted the historical view and understanding of peace and conflict as a discourse of physical or direct violence. This is also when he made a clear distinction between negative peace and positive peace. He identified negative peace as lack of direct violence whilst a society might still be dominated by injustices; incompetent governments, hunger and diseases hence the welfare and freedom of the people will be limited. He further defined positive peace as the simultaneous presence of many desirable states of mind in societies, which include justice, harmony, equity, enjoyment of basic needs etc. (Webel, 2010:6). Thus positive peace is a collection of things that allow people to be free and encourage them to develop and it ensures the achievement of happiness and independence. With the understanding of this theory one can be able to relate with the food insecurity situation in Buhera.

In this theory Galtung separated the world into six spaces that relate to one another. These are nature, person, social, world, time and culture. All these spaces are affected by any threats to peace. For the purpose of relating this theory to the context of the research the aspect of '*person*' is the most crucial. Galtung acknowledged that a person requires needs for survival, well-being, freedom, identity and all pleasant things which happen to the mind and body for personal positive peace (Galtung, 2003). According to Doucey (2011), personal development is a dimension of personal fulfillment, or in other words "the need to reach one's potential in all areas of life" is naturally fulfilled through the community, or through the policies, public goods, and services provided by the state. Sen (1999) described development as freedom and Galtung in this theory affirms that freedom should not only be understood as unimpeded by restrains but the enjoyment of opportunities beyond basic survival for personal growth, sustainable development and basically feeling satisfied with life. At this juncture one can begin to understand and see the comprehensive concept of peace taking its shape henceforth more about positive peace and its indicators will be discussed thoroughly in chapter four of this research.

1.5 Conceptual framework

Food security: According to Mercy Corps (2015) building on language developed at World Food Summit in 1996 defines food security as a development outcome achieved when all people at all times consume sufficient, safe and nutritious food and practice behaviors that promote both their sustainable economic productivity and well-being.

The concept of food security has been conservatively viewed in terms of food as a principal lower-order need in Maslow's hierarchy of needs. According to USAID (2005) food security focuses on three distinctive but interrelated elements i.e. (i) food availability: having sufficient quantities of food from household production, other domestic output, commercial food imports or food assistance; (ii) food access: having adequate resources to obtain appropriate foods for a nutritious diet, which depends on available income, distribution of income in the household, and food prices and (iii) food utilization/consumption that is proper biological use of food, requiring a diet with sufficient energy and essential nutrients; potable water and adequate sanitation. More so, knowledge of food storage, processing, basic nutrition, and child care and illness management is also an important aspect of food security (USAID, 2005). Therefore since food security constitutes these three key elements a systemic approach is ideal in addressing food insecurity since no one factor can cause food insecurity.

Following this line of thinking, Hopkins quoted in Devereux and Maxwell (2001:18) correctly articulates this view when he claims that "…food security stands as a fundamental need, basic to all human needs and the organization of social life. Access to necessary nutrients is fundamental, not only to life per se, but also to stable and enduring social order". Following these definitions it in irrefutably known that the rural people in Buhera do not have access to sufficient and nutritious food all year round. Thus, Johnson and Toole cited in Devereux and Maxwell (2001:16) defined food security at household level as "… access to food, adequate in quantity and quality, to fulfill all nutritional requirements for all household members throughout the year". This definition reveals that it is also the qualitative nature of the food that makes household members to be active, healthy and productive.

Food Security Programs: These are initiatives which contribute to the emergence of resilient sustainable food systems. In particular USAID-funded programs bring in new models of practice in the food systems through the integration of findings from in-depth research on key issues in the food value chain, capacity building and systematic impact assessments.

Structural violence – is the violence of injustice and inequity embedded in ubiquitous social structures and normalized by stable institutions and regular experience (Winter and Leighton, 2001 cited in Bauer and Farmer, 2006). These scholars articulated that structures mean social relations and arrangements – economic, political, legal, religious or cultural that shape how individuals and groups interact within a social system. These include broad scale cultural and political-economic structures such as caste, patriarchy, slavery, apartheid, colonialism and neoliberalism as well as poverty and discrimination by race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, and migrant/refugee status. They argued that these structures are violent because they result in unavoidable deaths, illness and injury and they reproduce violence by marginalizing people and communities, constraining their capabilities and agency, assaulting their dignity and sustaining inequalities. According to Bauer and Farmer (2006), whilst these outcomes are experienced individually, structural violence targets classes of people and subjects them to common forms of lived oppression. Hence the experience of structural violence and the pain it produces has been called '*social suffering*'.

Positive Peace: Webel and Galtung (2007) defined positive peace as a condition when social justice has replaced structural violence. Thus according to these scholars building a life-sustaining economy at the local, national and global level in which everyone's basic needs (social justice) are met is regarded as one key component of positive peace. It implies a state of well-being, a dynamic social process in which justice, equity and respect for basic human rights are maximized and violence, both physical and structural, is minimized. Galtung (1969) emphasized that processes for advancing positive peace include the elimination of constraints on human potential due to economic, social and political structures.

Hustard (2014) views negative peace as life without war whilst positive peace is life with quality hence Positive Peace Report (2016:6) defines it as, "*attitudes, institutions and structures that create and sustain peaceful societies thereby creating the optimum environment for human potential to flourish.*" These attitudes, institutions and structures can be difficult to differentiate but what is more important than drawing clear lines amongst them is the understanding of how they interact as a whole. Global Peace Index (2016) defines attitudes as norms, beliefs, preferences and relationships within a society. Attitudes influence how people cooperate in society. Institutions were defined as the formal bodies created by governments or other groups which facilitates or regulates a system. Whereas structures are formal or informal bodies that can be viewed as a shared code-of –conduct that is broadly applicable to most individuals e.g. societal views on morality or acceptance or rejection of other's behaviors.

8

Research Aims and Objectives

Aim: The aim of the research is to reveal the substantial empirical evidence that USAID-funded food security programs in rural communities are contributing to positive peace with the absence of the latter argued to be an underlying driver of food insecurity.

Objectives
- To assess how the causes of food insecurity in Buhera have undermined positive peace.
- To understand how the absence of positive peace has contributed to food insecurity.
- To examine how the ENSURE program is fostering attitudes, institutions and structures that breeds positive peace in Buhera.

Research Questions

1. How does the absence of institutions that impels positive peace made villagers in Buhera more vulnerable to shocks and stresses that affect food security?
2. To what extent and how has the ENSURE program established institutions, attitudes and structures that creates space for positive peace to prevail and food security to be attained?
3. What relevance does the circular link between food security and positive peace has in achieving sustainable development?
4. How can food security/development projects be implemented in a way that enables positive peace to prevail?

1.6 Significance of the study

The research is of significance to the domain of positive peace on aspects of sustainable development particularly the relationship between positive peace and food security as it minimize the knowledge gap that exists in understanding the fore mentioned nexus. Little has been documented on the circular relationship between food security and positive peace hence given this standpoint the researcher will endeavor to interrogate the role of the USAID food security initiatives in contribution to positive peace in Buhera not overlooking the fact that the current absence of positive peace has contributed to food insecurity as well.

It is also crucial that the research also narrows down the broad concept of development to human development and security. Thus the United Nations Human Development Report of 1994 cited in Chandler (2007:366) states that: "…human security in broadest sense embraces far more than the absence of violent conflict. It encompasses human rights, good governance, access to education and health care, and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his or her own potential." Every step in this direction is also a step towards reducing poverty, achieving economic growth and achieving positive peace. Building on this perspective the research seeks to expose the systemic nature of USAID food security programs through the lens of positive peace. Throughout, the research will highlight the interdependent nature of ENSURE program with many facets of positive peace. The study has the potential to inform policy makers, Government of Zimbabwe, donor agencies and non-governmental organizations to re-orient their approaches to food security in rural communities so that they consider transforming societal institutions, structures and attitudinal barriers that drives and maintains a state of food insecurity in rural spheres.

1.7 Limitations of the study

Accessing information from source documents and key informants was not an easy task since there was limited time to consult the relevant stakeholders. It also took a lot of time to visit their locations which were distanced from each other. More so travelling from ward to ward to reach out to beneficiaries of the program was challenging since the wards are harp hazardously located let alone the poor roads and network systems which made it a hard mission.

There was also lack of full cooperation by some of the beneficiaries since they were pre-occupied with their farming activities and the fact that they were being involved in the research voluntarily without being given any gratuities. Community leaders from the wards that are benefiting from the program were not so comfortable to talk about the state of food insecurity and positive peace in the area for security reasons. More importantly the concept of positive peace seemed to be new to some of the respondents including even the key informants but however they comprehended after being enlightened from the detailed explanations provided by the researcher.

1.8 Delimitation of the study

The study was carried out in Buhera district which is in the Manicaland province. The district is 170km by road South-West of Mutare and approximately 82km South-East of Chivhu. According to Oxfam-

UNDP/GEF Report (2015) the district falls in Agro-ecological Regions III, IV and V and it is estimated that the wards are proportionally divided across the regions. It should be noted that the research was conducted in wards 11, 12, 17, 19, 25, 26, 27 and 29 where the program in question is operating in.

Fig 1. The delineation of the study area, showing the location of Buhera within the map of Zimbabwe.
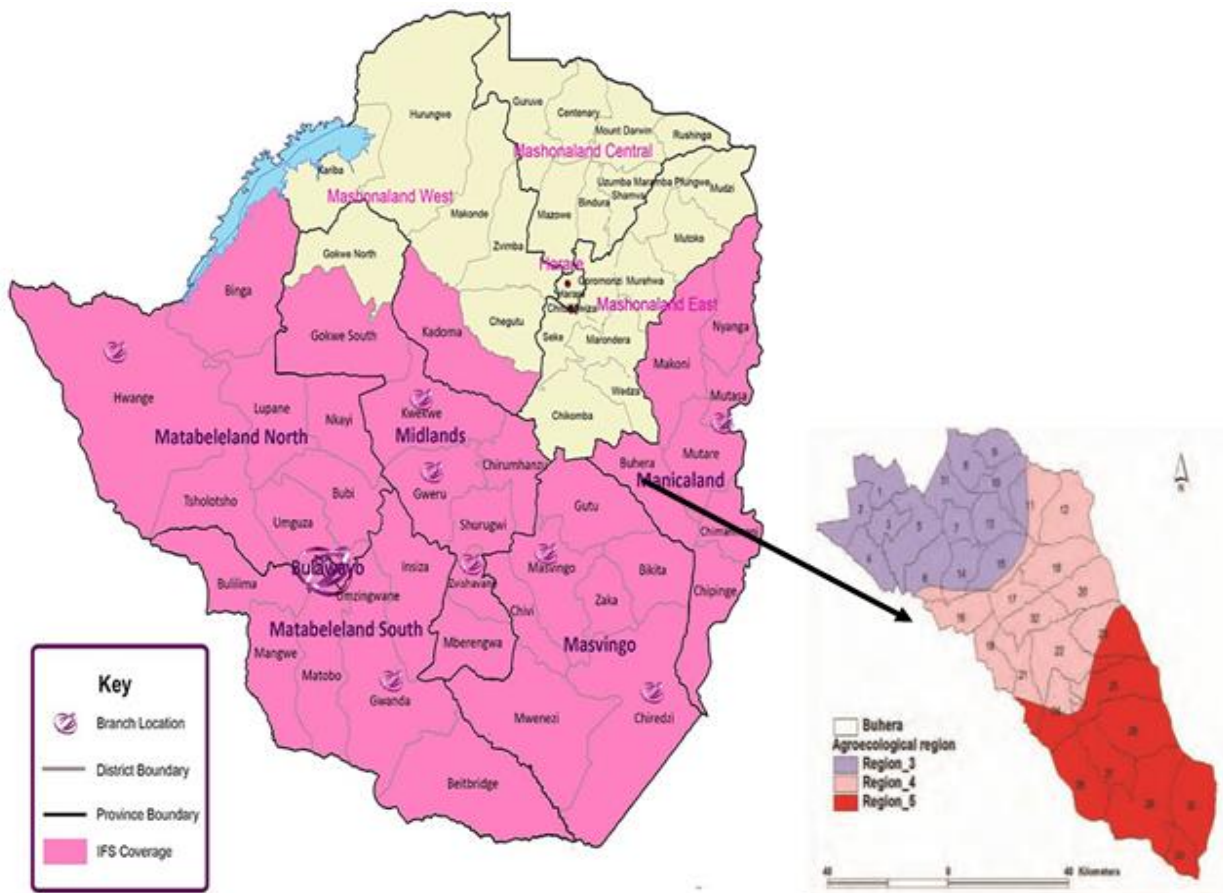
1.9 Chapter summary

This chapter gave an insight of the research by outlining the background to the research problem where a number of factors were discussed as the ones responsible for the state of food insecurity and positive peace in the district. Most importantly this chapter outlined the theoretical and conceptual frameworks that underpin this research and attempted to connect them to the food security approaches being used in the program under study in promoting positive peace. More over the chapter also gave a strong justification on why the research is worth conducting. Its main objectives and challenges which were encountered during the study were also highlighted. By and large the chapter was a wholesome introductory piece of the research.

Chapter Two

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter reveals the evolution of this research by considering what has been documented so far regarding the concepts under study i.e. positive peace and food security. Important to note is the fact that several scholars have written about food security and peace in a broader concept and only a few have started to research more about the connection between food security and the aspect of positive peace in this era. Relevant examples of food security programs that are being implemented across the globe will also be discussed to draw lessons and shortcomings for achieving sustainable peace through food security and how physical and structural violence fuel the deprivation of basic human needs. The chapter shall also highlight the approaches that are being used in the ENSURE program that ensures the realization of positive outcomes. Global perspectives on the issues of peace and its outcomes are also brought into discussion in this chapter to ascertain the possible ways of achieving positive peace or the '*real peace*' as some scholars call it.

2.2 Overview of the nexus between food security and peace

According to Jose in FAO (2015:7), "*Peace and food security are inextricably linked…we cannot achieve one without the other one. By integrating food security and peace building initiatives, we can work together to ensure that hunger is neither a cause nor a result of conflict*." According to FAO (2015) food insecurity is deepest in conflict affected countries where it can be either a consequence or cause of physical or structural violence. FAO as it was looking at armed conflicts in Africa postulated that rehabilitation of agriculture has a central role to play when building and consolidating peace whilst contributing to food security. Therefore the FAO's agricultural and food security interventions are an integral part in helping communities in the aftermath of conflict to progress from recovery towards sustainable peace and development.

FAO since 2009 collaborated with the United Nations Peace Building Fund (PBF) to support activities and programs that contribute to building lasting peace in countries emerging from conflict with 80% of them in Africa. For example beneficiary countries include Central African Republic, Ivory Coast, Guinea-

Bissau, South Sudan, Yemen, Uganda and Kyrgyzstan. This was done after realizing the need for building peace by addressing unmet human needs thus showing how food security and peace are inter-related.

According to Messer et al. (1998) between 1970 and 1990 violent conflicts led to hunger and reduced food production and economic growth in 43 developing countries hence they also argued that the reverse is true in that hunger and lack of access to basic necessities often threatened peace in many countries. More so they argued that a close relationship exists between violence and decreasing per capita food production in Sub-Saharan Africa during 1970-93 hence there is more food production in times of peace than in violent ones. For example in conflicts which erupted during Rwanda, Sudan and Ethiopia. The then President of Zimbabwe Robert Mugabe cited in Ruzvidzo and Musarurwa (2017), said there was civil unrest in some parts of Africa since the people especially the youths were becoming impatient with the slow pace of economic development in their countries were they look up to the governments to give them food and beyond food thus showing that food is a basic need that can motivate violence when people are deprived of it, it is non-negotiable.

Adding on, in the past rebellions and civil wars that started in Central America and Mexico, it was a consequence of governments denying the very basic right to food to the general populace (Messer et al. 1998). in African countries like Rwanda, Ethiopia and Sudan, lack of access to sufficient amount of food, following droughts and mismanagement of agriculture, "led to rebellions, civil unrest and government collapse, followed by even greater food shortfalls in ensuing years of conflict" (Teodosijević 2003). According to USAID (2013), the lengthy war which started in 1993-2005 in Burundi had adverse effects on food security in the country therefore showing that food insecurity can be a result of pro-longed violence in any given country. Kanu (2016) alludes that the proportion of people who are undernourished is almost three times as high in countries in protracted crisis than in other developing countries. He further argued that in 2013 there were approximately 167 million malnourished people in countries in protracted crisis. However Brinkman and Hendrix (2011) argued that food assistance can contribute to peace building, restore trust in governments and rebuild social capital. They further articulated that rising food prices contribute to food insecurity which is a threat to human security with the potential of fueling political instability and conflict. For example conflicts have grown rapidly since 2007-08 when food protests and riots broke out in 48 countries including Tunisia and Egypt.

In 2011 the food price index of FAO reached a new historic peak and this escalation in prices contributed to the wave of protest in North Africa and the Middles East. According to FAO (2015) FAO Director

General said efforts to revive the agricultural sector and increase food security have positive effects on the sustainability of peace. To support this fact, research has also shown that developing countries have weak capacities to design, implement and monitor policies and programs that ensure food security during price hikes that threatens economic access to food (World Bank, 2008). In 2006 after a conflict in Philippines WFP implemented a food security program in Mindanao which combined immediate interventions to meet humanitarian needs and medium to longer term measures to support rehabilitation, recovery and development similar to what ENSURE program is doing in Buhera though not in a way of addressing physical violence.

FAO (2016) stated that casual effects of the food security-conflict nexus include dispossession of assets including land and livestock and threats to food security (including sudden food price rises), disruption of food production and food systems. According to WFP (2011) civil conflict is almost exclusively a phenomenon in countries with low levels of economic development and high levels of food insecurity, therefore this nexus between food security and peace can be clearly noticed. The report further stated that 65% of the world's most food insecure people live in seven countries: China, India, Democratic Republic of Congo, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Pakistan and Ethiopia of which all except China have experienced civil war in the past decade. Thus show the devastating effects of conflict on food insecurity. Though food insecurity may not be the primary grievance of instability in some cases but it can be an effective motivator to fuel the escalation of violence. From the cases investigated it was proved that food insecurity is associated with increased risk of democratic failure, protests and rioting, civil conflict and communal violence.

2.3 About positive peace and its related features

The concept of positive peace fits well in Sustainable Development Goal 16 which aims to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels. Levy and Scobie (2015) stresses that the inclusion of SDG 16 on the Sustainable Development Goals constitutes a major improvement on the goals and for it to succeed it needed multi-faceted efforts and willingness of all. This also shows that there is growing appreciation of the significance of identifying the drivers of peace. Global Peace index (2015) ranked Zimbabwe number 30 and 125 in the African region and the world respectively with regards to its level of peacefulness. The report also postulates that positive peace is determined by the social and

economic progress of a country. In 2016 Zimbabwe moved further to 127 globally (Global Peace Index, 2016) hence showing that social and economic drivers that advances positive are further declining.

Positive peace lies at the center of understanding and addressing the multiple and complex challenges that the world faces hence the issue of hunger is a more relevant and topical in these times (Global Peace Index, 2015; pg 82). Macquarie (1973), says that positive peace is difficult to conceptualize and referred to it as a metaphysical concept. Thus he meant its boundaries cannot be precisely determined, not because people lack information but because the concept turns out to have such depth and inexhaustibility that the more it is explored the more people see something which needs further exploration.

The literature that is related to the topic in question was not sufficient to draw out the peace dividends that are associated with food security programs in that it was more concentrated in areas where there was physical violence hence negative peace is most likely to result. In Zimbabwe there is limited physical violence yet structural violence as a result of unmet human needs is widespread. This gap in literature is vivid in that one side of peace (negative peace i.e. absence of direct violence) and its correlation with food security was explored leaving the other side unturned. This perception of peace which has been construed as negative peace is no longer adequate in most discourses on peace as it has been critiqued for being too simplistic and misleading. Since human development is strongly related to positive peace Burchi and De Muro (2012), argue that there is a strong correlation between food security and human development. They went on to stress that those countries with low food insecurity experience higher human development and vice versa. Furthermore their research asserts that food insecurity and hunger can probably be considered as the worst deprivation to an individual's capabilities hence food security affects human development and in the sense of positive peace human potential cannot flourish under heightened food insecurity levels.

Still on the same vein of analysis, this popular view is no longer appropriate in that it seems to maintain that, as long as people are not involved in physical, overt and violent destructive activity then peace exists. Therefore if this simplistic perception is taken seriously then one might be misled that there is nothing or little to worry about in this world for there seem to be no more real wars, physical and direct violence in many parts of the world. From the preceding analysis on peace it can be argued that the conditions in Zimbabwe are constant with negative peace. Makuvaza (2013) advocated for 'practical positive peace' in Zimbabwe where there is need to create an environment in which every citizen can reasonably exercise

and enjoy all basic freedoms and needs. Positive peace is transformational in that it is a cross-cutting facilitator of progress which makes the potential of individuals, communities and countries to flourish.

As the institutions, structures and attitudes of positive peace are complex and non-linear the Institute for Economics and Peace in the Global Peace Index (2015) identifies the systems thinking which coins pillars that are essential for positive peace. These are (i) well-functioning government, (ii) sound business environment, (iii) equitable distribution of resources, (iv) low levels of corruption, (v) acceptance of the rights of others, (vi) good relations with neighbors, (vii) free flow of information and (viii) high levels of human capital. The interaction of these components forms the system hence the sense systemic thinking. The Pillars of Peace Report (2014) acknowledges five substantive freedoms put by Amatyr Sen that mutually reinforce peace, two of which are context specific. These are: (i) social freedoms i.e. enjoyment of basic needs and (ii) protective security which guarantees security from deprivation in times of need such as droughts and conflicts. Makoni (2015) in his research found out that there is lack of positive peace in contemporary Zimbabwe which means these pillars of peace are weak. Masunungure and Shumba (2012:ix) maintain the fact that from the inception of its independence in 1980, Zimbabwe has never experienced positive peace hence it is sufficient enough to justify the state of food insecurity in much of the rural areas.

In support of the above, food insecurity also inhibits positive peace to prevail since it is evident from existing literature that obstacles to positive peace particularly failure to satisfy human needs have not yet received adequate attention by the GoZ (Mehta,2014:2). Therefore basing on these writings the research endeavored to expose the relationship between positive peace and food security to cover up for the missed knowledge.

2.4 Food Security Programs in Zimbabwe

Research shows that food security programs have been failing to address food insecurity mainly due to poor programming, poor targeting and the short tenure of the programs. According to Mudimu (2003), up to 2002 Zimbabwe did not have a clearly articulated agricultural and food security strategy. It is acknowledged that Zimbabwe first came up with its first food security framework for presentation at the FAO World Food Summit in 2002. Food security programs in Zimbabwe are known to be largely donor funded with the GoZ coming in as a partner through its various government departments to offer technical support. Food security initiatives can be traced back from the early 1980s when different NGOs started

establishing themselves in the country for the purposes of rehabilitating and restoring dignity to human life in the aftermath of the war. These programs proliferated after the turn of the new millennium which saw the economic meltdown that left the general populace ravaged and in deep misery. Food security programs in Zimbabwe started with food distribution to the vast majority of rural masses, whose livelihoods depend on own production to address high rates of under nutrition in rural areas where diets lack diversity with maize being the main staple. Non-governmental organizations and donor agencies were mainly focused on short term (seasonal) food assistance hence they were not addressing the underlying causes of food insecurity.

In addition, government food security initiatives have sometimes been described as politicized and subject to political manipulation by political figures thereby limiting the political freedoms of other groups. This is contrary to the humanitarian principles of neutrality and impartiality (Committee on World Food Security, 2011). Coupled with the government's incapacity and lack of will to deliver basic needs such as food and establishing sustainable food systems, rural areas seem to be neglected in the colonial past where no gun but socio-economic inequalities, absolute poverty, exclusion, natural disasters, poor infrastructure, lack of access to resources, limited access to information among other things have curtailed the enjoyment of basic human needs. This tells that places like Buhera are having negative peace hence positive peace is something they desire to live in so that they can enjoy quality life.

2.5 Nature of USAID-funded food security programs

Unlike the programs that were implemented in the past, USAID food security activities are aimed to transition assistance from short-term food aid to longer-term developmental food and nutrition security. The initiatives focus on improving the enabling environment for food security. The programs are nutrition sensitive with a theory of change that fore see sustainability in the food systems. USAID (2016) defined sustainability as the ability of communities to maintain overtime, the programs authorized and outcomes achieved from an institutional and programmatic perspective. Sustainability therefore entails building skills, knowledge, institutions and incentives that can make the development process self-sustaining. Learning from the 2006-2010 strategic plan the USAID Office of Food For Peace (FFP) shifted from only improving food security but to sustain it. More so, its 2016-2025 strategic plan put strong emphasis on improving the institutions that are related to foods systems. According to USAID (2016) these programs are fostering systems oriented interventions, supporting good governance and commitment to conflict

sensitive programming. The agency also acknowledges that the way that food assistance is carried can have positive impacts on social cohesion and improve capacities for positive peace.

The agency recognizes that inadequate or inequitable public goods and services, weak institutions, poor access to information, weak policies are some of the risks that contribute to food insecurity. This is rooted from one of its principles i.e. to recognize the links between politics, security and development objectives. The programs have a community and institutions transformative agenda for example USAID and its partners are collaborating efforts with the Relief Society Tigray in Ethiopia and the National Drought Management Agency in Kenya to address food insecurity. Similarly in Buhera the program has synergies with various government departments and NGOs hence capitalizing on the already available capacities to achieve common goals. This provides a pathway to addressing root causes and drivers of food insecurity from community level all the way to district policy planning by ways that strengthen the capacity of institutions, reducing risks, broadening opportunities and positive change.

Food insecurity has complex causes which are unlikely to be solved in the short-term hence initiatives should work to address the situation before a famine develops (WFP, 2017). According to the Zimbabwe National Contigency Plan (2012) amongst the top ten disasters that the country faced from 1982-2011 droughts were the worst, affecting five million people in 1991 and six million in 2001. Since the district relies heavily on the household's own production and market purchases the program is improving food production, storage and processing, strengthening their businesses, financial and marketing skills, and increasing profitability from both on and off-farm enterprises. This can be perceived as a comprehensive approach to agri-business putting focus across the supply chain from farm to retail. This is a way of increasing household incomes/purchasing power parity and sustained food security. This approach is enabling households to sequentially progress to economic empowerment.

The target area (i.e. Buhera) is facing low productivity, declining soil fertility, poor access to agricultural water, outdated and unsustainable natural resource management practices, limited access to markets and financial services. As a counter to these challenges safety nets in form of community assets are being either created or rehabilitated which includes gravity-fed weirs/dams, irrigation schemes, deep wells and environmental conservation works to protect the ever depleting natural resources. ENSURE is also tackling some of the fundamental and structural aspects of gender inequity and its impact on food security. Deeply entrenched gender inequities lead to widespread systemic inefficiencies that erode coping

capacities. Cultural norms are being addressed, advocating for women's access to and control of resources and their capacity and voice in financial and nutritional decision making.

All these initiatives are being successful due to the collaborative efforts with departments such as the Environmental Public Health Department, Civil Protection Unit, AGRITEX, MoHCC, Rural District Council, and MWAGCD among other partners offering technical support. This is being done in a way to revive structures that are essential for rural development. One important aspect worth mentioning is that the program is co-owned by the agency, development partners and the receiving communities since that component of resilience recognizes that sustainability requires communities to be proactive and cooperative hence the program is resurrecting these systems of self-representation and planning in the rural communities.

USAID (2015) notes that resilience implies the ability of people, households, communities and systems to mitigate, adapt to and recover from shocks and stresses to food security in a manner that reduces chronic vulnerability and facilitates inclusive growth. The Global Peace Index (2015) postulates that resilient social systems have three broad characteristics: (i) coping capacities i.e. the ability of communities and systems to cope, with hand and overcome adversities or shocks; (ii) adaptive capacities i.e. the ability of communities to learn from past experiences and adjust for the future accordingly and (iii) transformative capacities i.e. the abilities of communities to build institutions to foster individual and societal robustness. These element are seen in the program and therefore distinguishes it from other food security programs since its initiatives proves to be offering appropriate solutions in the quest to address food insecurity in rural Zimbabwe in this 21st Century.

2.6 Chapter summary

Food security programs can be recognized as one of the most significant initiatives to build institutions and structures that sustain positive peace. It has been revealed also that there is now a shift from accusatory approaches to one that focuses on the shared processes of developing peace. The literature review showed that food security initiatives that are peace-sensitive the world over are mainly implemented in protracted crises where communities are in physical violence hence the researcher managed to identify that literature gap. The nature and strength of the circular link between peace and food security has been underexplored limiting it to negative peace but the researcher managed to bring the significance of food security to positive peace. The chapter also managed to introduce the framework that

guides food security programs to achieve positive peace outcomes. It was also noted that programs in Zimbabwe were mainly offering short-term food assistance which was not sufficient to address the underlying causes of food shortages. Although positive peace is a difficult and elusive outcome to quantify the nature of the program under study was also explored thus leaving the impression that food security through improved rural livelihoods can contribute to the mitigation and prevention of structural violence leading to securing sustainable peace.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher highlights how the study was undertaken. The effectiveness of research designs, sampling technique, data collection methods, sample size and procedures that were used in the study are discussed. Furthermore, research validity and reliability are also discussed in this chapter in order to provide comprehensive answers to the research questions and guiding the research to the anticipated outcomes. The chapter shall also explain on the selection of participants. More so, ethical measures are also discussed in this chapter. The chapter also presents the research methods that were employed to extract data that was presented in chapter four.

3.2 Research Paradigm

The researcher employed a qualitative phenomenological study. Based on the premise that qualitative phenomenological study places more emphasis on participants' lived experiences and the meanings they give to certain situations, processes or events (Finlay, 2011:16), the researcher regarded it as the most appropriate for this study. Johnson and Christensen (2012:48) cited in Makoni (2015) alluded that Edmund Husserl who developed phenomenology wanted a method "that could be used to explain how persons give meanings to social phenomenon in their everyday life."

Shosha (2012:31) concurs and states that phenomenology is both a philosophy and research method that is primarily designed to study and understand people's everyday lived experiences thus qualitative phenomenological approach prioritizes human experience and first-hand information provided by individuals involved in a situation. It is also for the reason that positive peace and food security are development aspects that are elusive to quantify hence the need for a qualitative study to ensure that important data was not missed out.

Cresswell (1998) noted that qualitative research offers a rich source of data resulting in the formation of theories, patterns and or policies that help to illuminate the phenomenon under research. This type of research was also chosen for the reason that it allows the topic to be explored flexibly with the objective of accessing specific information. Qualitative phenomenological research was used in this study since it gives a deep understanding of political, economic and social phenomenon surrounding the nexus in

question. More over qualitative research study things in their natural setting, with the objective of extracting sense and meanings out of them.

3.3 Research design

Mouton (1996) describes a research design as a blueprint of how one intends to do his/her research. This therefore entails that a research design denotes how a researcher situates a study to respond to questions or a set of questions. Basing on this definition, in other words, a research design shows a systematic plan outlining research methods of compiling and analyzing data that will be used to arrive at a desired conclusion of the research problem. In another view Cresswell (1998) conceptualizes a research design in a qualitative framework as the "...entire process of research from conceptualizing a problem to writing the narrative…" Following this perspective of reasoning, a research design can be said to be a prepared plan of action that a research uses to obtain and utilize data so that the desired data can be collected from specified intended sources. Additionally the main aim of the research design is to allow the research to forestall what suitable research decisions should be primarily made so as to capitalize on the trustworthiness and validity of the eventual outcome.

The research adopted the descriptive research design. The intention in a descriptive study is to define and note some sections of socio-economic and political realities. More so the main purpose of using this research is to examine the connection between variables and to provide an accurate explanation of the phenomenon that is being studied (De Vos et al, 2002). A descriptive study is based on the premise that before solutions are sought; people need to know what the existing facts and prevailing conditions are.

3.3.1 Descriptive Design

It is worth noting that descriptive design is an in-depth description of specific individuals, communities, systems, events or any social phenomenon. Since the research aimed at digging deep into exploring the interrelated structures, institutions and attitudes that promote food security from the lenses of positive peace focus was put on the wards benefiting from the ENSURE program and various stakeholders that are offering technical assistance. The design is therefore important in that it sought to explore the boundaries of the environment in which problems and solutions are likely to exist in. This research is therefore significant in that it highlight the existing threats to positive peace and food security.

3.4 Target Population

The population consists of various groups of people to which findings were to be collected from, Landis et al, (1982) as cited by Churchill (1987). According to Patton (1997), population can also refer to the total of all cases that conform to a pre-specified criterion or set of criteria. Ben and Khen (1993) noted that the target population is a group of individuals that have one or more interests and characteristics to the research. It can be therefore said a target population is made up of people who have common interests about the study and participated in the research as sources to draw information from to yield the desired results. Since the study was qualitative the researcher employed purposive sampling to the research. Among the beneficiaries from the 8 wards who participated in the research were producer group members, Village Savings & Lending members, Disaster Risk Reduction Committee members, Care Group Leaders and the local leadership was also included.

3.5 Sampling

Sampling has been defined by Gay (1985) as the process of selecting a set of subjects for a research skillfully in such a manner that the individuals are representative of the larger group from which they were handpicked. For this research purposive sampling was used. Purposive sampling or Judgmental sampling is a non-probability sampling wherein the researcher selects the samples based on who they think would be appropriate for the research. This is used primarily when there is a limited number of people that have expertise in the area being studied, or when the interest of the study is on a specific field or a small group. The major reason for sampling is feasibility.

3.5.1 Purposive Sampling

The research made use of purposive sampling method. This technique of sampling is centered wholly on the judgments of the researcher in that the sample is composed of elements that include the most characteristics, typical attributes or representatives of the population (De Vos et al., 2002). The researcher in this study chose purposive sampling because it is the most excellent when a researcher wants to find out specific types of cases for in-depth examination. The study was driven by the desire to explore the relationship between positive peace and food security than a mere generalization of the outcome.

The research sample was made up of purposefully selected key informants. The selected focal persons stood as entities or institutions that steers development initiatives in the wards ensuring there is an enabling environment for both positive peace and food security to be achieved. The beneficiaries from the

8 wards are the people at the receiving end, who experience the effects that result from the absence of the two variables in question. The main concern was to avoid an attempt to generalize from the broad population. Steinberg (2004) argues that "…purposive samples are collected from an available population without stratifying them first". Just like in all other non-probability sampling techniques, purposive sampling guards against generalization, thus the outcome of this study was interpreted in terms of the specific context under research.

3.6. Research Instruments

Research instruments can be understood as tools that are used in data collection of the study. Leedy (1993) notes that a research instrument is something used to mine data beyond physical research of the observer. The researcher selected instruments based on their suitability to qualitative research and the topic. Focus group discussions and literature search were used. For enlightenment on different issues the researcher used academic sources like journals from the internet, books and publications by other scholars and organizations. This informed selection of research instruments was of vital importance in ensuring triangulation that will guarantee the validity and reliability of the intended outcomes.

3.6.1 Focus Groups Discussions (FGDs)

Krueger and Casey (2000:305) define a focus group as "… a carefully planned discussion designed to find perceptions of individuals on a defined area of interest in a permissive, non-threatening environment". This entails that focus groups are utilized as a research technique that collects data through group interaction on a topic determined by the researcher. As such, focus groups were held in a relaxed setting. One of the main advantages of this technique is that participant interaction assists to weed out false or extreme views, thus providing a data quality control mechanism since the topic studied was a complex one. Interviews with focus groups helped to elicit information from respondents in the search of their perceptions, views, thoughts, feelings and opinions on the relationship between food security and positive peace. As such, focus group discussions were held in the 8 wards. They were comprised of men and women including local leadership (traditional leaders and councilors) since they are all beneficiaries of the ENSURE program. This helped the researcher to realize the trends in the opinions and perceptions expressed by the respondents. The researcher operated as facilitator in introducing and explaining themes, guiding the discussions and encouraging all participants to express their opinions. According to Brikci and Green (2007) one of the advantages of FDGs is that analysis is done at the group level rather than the individual hence the outcomes of the research will be easier to interpret.

3.6.2 Literature Search

Literature search is grouped under secondary research which analyzes the existing literature and sources of information related to the topic. This was useful to the researcher in that he was able to identify areas of critical concern as he searched about the factors contributing to food insecurity in Buhera. Literature search also helped the researcher to understand the facets that underpins positive peace and how to relate it to the context of food insecurity in Buhera and the approaches of the program in its quest to address the underlying causes to food insecurity. Information was also sought about the various government departments that are partnering with ENSURE to deliver project outcomes on how their operations as a system strengthen or weaken the attitudes, structures and institutions that are vital for positive peace to prevail. These include among other relevant stakeholders government ministries that deal with the welfare of people and rural development, Buhera Rural District Council and the Civil Protection Unit.

3.7 Ethical Considerations

The Nuremberg code of 1948 provided principles that any research which allows for human beings to participate should be guided by ethics to ensure that the research doesn't do any harm to those involved. Ethics involves systematizing, defending and recommending concepts of right from wrong conduct. According to Brikci and Green (2007) everyone who participates in a research should have freely consented to participation in a study without being forced or unfairly pressurized. The consent can be in written or verbal form and the participants in this study were flexible to agree verbally. The researcher ensured that participants gave their consent to be involved in the research voluntarily. With this knowledge in mind the researcher tried by all means possible to uphold professionalism, confidentiality, honesty and respect for local culture and traditions. The researcher always ensured that the topic would not spill into a political debate as it was likely to arouse political factual arguments basing on different affiliations.

3.8 Data analysis

Since qualitative researches yields large volumes of information in non-standard format the researcher thoroughly analyzed it and made an intuitive attempt to identify the themes and connections of insights that resulted from the discussions**.** Brikci and Green (2007) notes that a qualitative research requires a thematic analysis that looks across all the data to find common issues that recur and identify the main themes that summarize all the information that the researcher would have collected. The researcher took

time after the discussions to read and annotate the scripts of recorded data as a preliminary way to get a feel of the data. More over the researcher tried to make sense out of this data by looking in detail to identify themes that came out and try to think what participants referred to that seemed to be unclear in their responses.

3.9 Chapter summary

The chapter discussed about the research paradigm, research design, target population, data collection methods and procedures and ethical considerations among other things. In was noted that the phenomenological qualitative research was the most ideal design for this research since it allowed the creation of concepts, theories or philosophies around the two variables which are elusive to measure i.e. food security and positive peace. The chapter also discussed the data collection methods employed which are focus group discussions and literature search since it was identified that they were the only appropriate for the topic under research and are sufficient enough to draw the required outcomes that can answer the research questions. Data collection procedures highlights how the research was carried out and renders the study authentic since the procedures are justified. By and large the chapter gives assurance about the validity, richness and reliability of the research.

<center>**Chapter Four**</center>

<center>**DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND DISCUSSION**</center>

4.1 Introduction

The chapter presents, analyses and discusses the research findings generated through the utilization of the methodology indicated in the preceding chapter. This chapter shall discuss these findings in connection to the conceptual and theoretical frameworks provided in the first chapter. The findings were obtained from the focus group discussions held in the 8 wards and secondary data. As outlined in the opening chapter, the research's main objective was to unravel the nexus that exists between USAID food security programs and positive peace. Since ENSURE's goal is to increase food security of targeted communities and households by 2018, the research found out that its approach to food insecurity is systemic thus it is holistic in nature. The research thrived to exhibit how the program is contributing to positive peace through its food security approach.

The various themes that were realized resulted from the focus group discussions that were held and information obtained from related literature. The chapter is broken down into the following subtopics: causes of food insecurity, indicators of lack of positive peace and the contribution of the program to positive peace derived from food security the food security approach. The chapter ends with a chapter summary which wraps up all the discussions.

4.2 Causes of food insecurity in Buhera that undermine positive peace

Whilst food insecurity is triggered by what seem to be obvious factors, for the purpose of addressing the research aim it was necessary to interrogate the factors which are context specific since places and cases vary from one another. The problems faced in Buhera are multi-dimensional ranging from poor climate and soil productivity, poor infrastructural and communication systems, lack of agricultural inputs and technical know-how, lack of access to water sources, lack of government will and lack of decision making power in food security initiatives by local communities. These and other factors are discussed below supported by the findings from the focus group discussions.

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4.2.1 Poor climate and poor soil productivity

Climate change related impacts such as rising temperatures; rainfall variations leading to droughts and poor soil productivity remains one of the core barriers to achieving food security in Buhera. This can be traced back from the colonial era when the indigenous peoples were evicted from the productive lands to regions of low rainfall and soil fertility. According to Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report (2015) droughts are a characteristic feature in the district that continues to threaten livelihoods. Communities are therefore left vulnerable with low coping capacities year in year out thus food insecurity continues to manifest since the prevalent environmental conditions increase susceptibility to shocks and stresses. The communities find themselves trapped in cycles of poverty and food insecurity which are hard to break.

It is relevant to cite findings from a focus group discussion also recorded in Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report (2015; 10). The participants are reported to have acknowledged the climatic implications on food security as they indicated that historically the district experienced low rainfall which was not adequate for agriculture to flourish. They also highlighted that the rainfall patterns have further worsened since the rain season is now starting late and ending earlier resulting in crop failure hence perpetuating the trends of food insecurity in the district which can be confirmed by looking at its history of being targeted for food assistance by various donor agencies and NGOs.

Furthermore, on the issue of climate and soil infertility the communities still believe this is as a result of the failure by government to provide the rural people with productive lands to address the colonial imbalances. An elderly ward councilor said during a focus group discussion that,

> *We the people of Buhera have experienced food insecurity since the pre-independence era, the reason being that agriculture does not do well here. The rains are not sufficient, we hoped that since we are now independent the government will establish programs for places like Buhera that will ensure that people have sustained food access, our situation has not changed at all.*

These words gave a clear picture that the people lacked individual security in terms of accessing basic needs hence their potential is pre-determined to be limited given that the place is in a dry agro-ecological zone. From the assessment of the results from the FDGs and secondary data it can be said that the existing state and trends in land degradation, water stress and pasture depletion are interacting with climatic impacts to heightened vulnerabilities among communities in Buhera due to increased asset poverty.

4.2.2 Lack of access to water resources

It was also noted from the research that the communities lacked access to water resources due to the ever changing and worsening climatic patterns. This makes the survival of the rural people difficult in that potable clean water for human consumption is hard to source, water for irrigation and livestock is also scarce. It is evident that it is possible that in the near future communities will be battling for the few water resources. In a focus group discussion in ward 29 a participant said, *" accessing water is a real problem here, sometimes people and livestock drink from the same source, during the lean season our wells dries up so many people draw water from shallow holes but it's risky because it can lead to outbreak of diseases."*

Manicaland province had the second highest proportion of households with inadequate water for domestic and agricultural use in all of Zimbabwe, standing at 40.4 per cent in 2016 (ZIMVAC).Buhera is not an exception, since its inception in June 2012 the program has supported irrigation interventions to ensure improved harvests. This was done by rehabilitating and establishing irrigation schemes, as well as mechanizing high yielding water points to support solar powered drip irrigation systems. Access to clean and safe water by mechanizing the few available high yielding boreholes and moving water to where people are significantly reducing distance travelled to the nearest water source, which initially was up to 8 kilometers in some areas World Vision (2017b).Participants of focus group discussions also indicated that goats, cattle and sheep numbers are declining due to livestock sales as a coping strategy, as well as deaths associated with droughts. The selling of livestock and other key productive assets is also an indicator that a household is largely vulnerable to food insecurity.

Another participant remarked, "*We wish if the government could come up with programs to drill boreholes because the life we are experiencing is not pleasant, we thank USAID and World Vision for constructing dams so that we can have water to irrigate our crops and avail water for our livestock*"

Water access also poses some serious health challenges since hygiene is compromised. According to World Vision (2012) there was high prevalence of cholera in 2008 in the district due to water scarcity. People travel to more than 3km to the nearest borehole to access water (Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report, 2015; 15). The report also indicated that ground water in some wells and boreholes in wards 25 and 30 which is used for consumption was contaminated by faecal coliforms.

According to Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report (2015), this unreliable water situation tends to trigger conflicts in communities amongst water consumers. "To build resilience, central government, local authorities and individuals will need to scale up investments in water resources, natural ecosystem management, climate smart agriculture, infrastructure, tailored climate services and disaster risk reduction..."(Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report, 2015; 15)

4.2.3 Poor infrastructural and communication systems

Infrastructure and communication development is very vital for sustaining food systems hence the district has got poor roads which make it very difficult to access. From past researches rural infrastructure has proven to be one of the major determinants of vulnerability, inequity gap and exclusion of the rural masses. It is also the bad state of the roads that influence the high cost of food commodities because transporters and public transport operators regard the route very risky and degrading the condition of their vehicles. One of the participants in a focus group discussion said,

> *...the roads are in bad state such that a journey from here to Birchnough Bridge costs much similar to the fares charged for a person going to Harare from Mutare. These exorbitant fares are a challenge to farmers because much of the income realized from the produce is used for transport. ...buyers of agricultural products like groundnuts, millet and goats find it hard to reach this place because the roads are a real barrier. The most worrying fact is that in times of acute insecurity it is expensive to access food commodities because suppliers find in unprofitable to trade in this area.*

Some business centers and institutions cannot be easily accessed. In the same way, it is difficult for farmers to transport their produce to the markets without facing problems. Consequently, most rural farmers will end up selling their produce to middlemen for pittance. Without proper roads, the rural people are alienated from technological development and emerging markets in towns. Poor infrastructure is a barrier to communication, resulting in social isolation of the communities in Buhera, many of whom have limited access to media and news outlets. Such isolation impedes integration with urban society and established markets, which could result in greater development and economic security. Improving rural roads and communication systems will lead to an increase in transport suppliers which in turn will lower transportation costs of food for the rural communities.

4.2.3 Lack of resolute Government will

The food security situation in Buhera depicts a clear picture that there is lack of resolute government will to address the food crisis. It has become tradition that the people in Buhera experience hunger year in year out. The findings showed that the people are used to the situation. The question which comes to their minds according to one councilor in a focus group discussion is, "What policy measures does the government have in place to robustly address food insecurity?" or "Does the government feel it is maximizing its efforts? If so why the problem is recurrent?"

In a focus group discussion in ward 17 respondents said they were now used to live in the state of food insecurity and it was no longer a new phenomenon and did not have any idea whether the problem could be addressed or not. The following views emerged during the FGD:

> *We don't have any idea on how the government is working to address food security in the district. It is real that hunger is persistent but the government has got some obligations to remember us during these hard times. My observation is that the government no longer has capacity to address the challenges facing the rural people considering the current economic situation; it has left that task to donors and development partners to fill the gap because they have the resources and capacity.*

The government has for a while seized to be the key player in addressing hunger to the needy and it now relies on development partners to assume the leading role in delivering basic needs and catering for the welfare of the vulnerable. The researcher is also convinced that it is now then the government realized the need to dismantle the Ministry of Local Government and Housing Development and make the division of Rural Development, Culture and Heritage a Ministry on its own so that the plight of the vulnerable rural masses can be effectively looked into and addressed with equity. Another issue which came out was that the government departments and ministries were obscure, only to reach out to communities when they partner with NGOs. This showed that these stakeholders were incompetent, reluctant to execute duties or lacked necessary resources.

Participants in the focus groups had this to say,

> *The personnel from government technical departments are now reaching out to the communities through the intervention of World Vision, all this time we had an impression*

that their job is office work only; little did we know that they have a part to play in these

programs and assisting us to address our challenges and matters concerning our welfare.

Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report (2015; 32), also indicated that the lack of capacity by government departments like Forestry Commission, EMA and AGRITEX had serious implications on the protection of the environment. It was reported that the enforcement of policies remains a challenge hindering adaptation to climate change and sustainable natural resource management which are key to food security.

4.2.4 Poor Food Security Policies

The study found out that policies, institutional frameworks, practices and support for facilitating climate adaptation and building resilience were not being strongly advanced and implemented. Policies are the articulation of goals to address issues identified by businesses, social groups, individuals, and governments (Howlett & Ramesh, 1995). Kalina (2001), says policies provide frameworks within which decisions are made and actions are taken. Food security in rural communities cannot be achieved or succeed outside a policy framework hence the study established the fact that the policies being implemented were not sufficient enough to address food insecurity.

Customarily decisions are made within the context of existing policies. Howlett and Ramesh (1995:102), defined a food policy as "… any program, decision, or project endorsed by a business, government or organization that influences how food is processed, produced, distributed, purchased, protected, and/ or disposed…" It is important to know that food security policies can function at various levels i.e. institutional, district, provincial, national, regional up to global level.

The participants in focus group discussions expressed concern over the homogeneity treatment of small holder farmers in low rainfall regions. They advocated for a system whereby the government treat small holder farmers differently as different entities. They maintained that they have distinctive technological and socio-economic needs in their varied areas of habitation. Moreover, the agro-ecological regions vary across the country hence the need to deal with the issues differently. One village head amongst the participants in a focus group discussion had this to say;

These agricultural programs should not be done uniformly, regions are not homogenous,

we are in regions that are receiving low rainfall. We have different needs and what we wish

be done for us. For example the Presidential Input Scheme is welcomed but the inputs do

not suite this place, why can't they provide small grain seeds? That is some of the things
we need.

According to Mano et al. (2013), the other problem was that there were limited food sources in rural areas. They gave a lucid and vivid explanation on the lack of diversification on the sources of food; the production of drought resistant small grain crops was not fully supported by government. The participants also stressed that the government's food distribution through the department of Social Welfare was not a solution to their problems since it was only seasonal. A youthful beneficiary of the ENSURE program also brought the issue of the hijacking of government initiatives by political leaders. The participant disclosed that ward councilors sometimes purposefully command government given food to be distributed on a political podium with the objective of drumming support from community members. This is however negative towards sustaining peaceful societies. Participants also said meetings on food security initiatives were said to be sometimes attended on partisan basis since the leaders of the programs do not want conflicting ideas when programming.

4.2.5 Exclusion of communities to participate in food security programs
Missing the vulnerable and food susceptible groups

In Buhera the level of participation by communities in food security initiatives is very low. The level of participation is mainly at the informing stage whereby communities are being told what to do by the government or other NGOs. The study revealed that communities were merely passive beneficiaries of government or NGO sponsored interventions. In another dimension, Townsely (1996) asserts that community participation is a means of uncovering priorities and realities of the poor people. Community participation has the potential to ensure that planners and implementers are responding to the real needs of the vulnerable people. When local communities have more say in the designing of programs, they are more likely to propose initiatives which utilises existing resources and upgrade them (Ndou, 2007).

Traditional leaders and councilors said that in the workshops and meetings facilitated under the District Food Security Council (FSC), they are listeners and recipients of the decisions made by government officials and NGO representatives hence they do not have capacity to influence decisions. They remarked that they were members theoretically but they watched from terraces when it comes to programming.

A village head in a FDG chronicled "*We don't see why we are involved in the District Food Security Council because those from government just tell us about already designed programs, similarly the NGOs come to assist us basing on what they want to do for us depending on their budgets, resources and priorities, we wish if they would afford us a chance to decide.*" Another ward councilor said;

> *The assumption they have is that the rural citizens lack adequate knowledge and insight to recognize their problems or to think of possible solutions. They assume whatever knowledge we might have, is based on incorrect information because of limited experiences, upbringing and other cultural factors. …how can these be our programs when they involve us after they have already decided, we want active involvement.*

The researcher was left with a general impression that it is vital for programmers to ensure inclusivity and equity basing on assessment of vulnerabilities related to incomes, societal settings and diversities. The participants also suggested that priority should be given to the most food insecure households and marginalized individuals to ensure inclusive and equitable provision of assistance.

From the above expositions it is vivid to note that the government and the so called development partners are failing to address the problem of food insecurity in rural areas partly because their programs are pre-conceived. They often fail to appreciate the knowledge, intuition, aspirations and expertise of those whom the projects are targeting to assist. Swikepi (2011), argued that food security plans in Zimbabwe have routinely followed a centrally driven approach and conventional methods whereby a trickle-down effect model was mostly used. The top down approach was mainly about the transference of food production knowledge and technologies without involving the program beneficiaries hence they were consequently ineffective. Food security programs should encourage ownership of the programs by communities themselves. According to Swikepi (2011), those spearheading food security initiatives should not only transmit knowledge but also support rural dwellers to discover for themselves and aid them to take responsibility and come up with their sustainable programs.

More so, community assets like small irrigation dams, public sanitation facilities and boreholes are increasingly dilapidating resulting from lack of a sense of ownership amongst the communities. It is evidently clear that this aspect of community participation is a two edged sword; (i) the negligence of government-driven and NGO programs in actively involving communities and (ii) lack of commitment

from the locals to embrace the programs so that they succeed. An elder from one of the focus group discussions is remembered for saying,

> "*People in Buhera now have a dependency syndrome, whenever an NGO launches a project people expect gratuities and food as a reward for participating in the community initiatives. Some even don't bother taking part with the view that these projects are public and no personal gain is derived for taking part forgetting that they are the owners of the community so they should own the programs. If you are not a part of the solution you are a big problem yourself!*"

The above statement also shows that there is lack of social cohesion which signals tensions and fragile environment where peaceful cohabitation rarely exists.

4.2.6 Lack of Agricultural Inputs and Technical Know-how

Important to emphasize is the fact that agricultural production in the district has also suffered due to weak support services, lack of credit facilities, lack of technological advancement, lack of draught power, proper quality/hybrid seeds, fertilizers and fuel. Droughts have only exacerbated already existing problems. Agriculture in Buhera can only be improved by enhancing improved water management techniques and particularly small scale irrigation water harvesting mechanisms. Since wards in Buhera fall under agro-ecological regions III, IV and V the soils need farmers to invest heavily in acquiring technical knowledge, resources and inputs such as hybrid seeds and fertilizers. The communities lacked sound environmental management approaches that foster sustainability and resilience. It was discovered from the research through focus group discussions that low productivity was also as a result of poor access to agricultural water, outdated and unsustainable natural resource management (NRM), inefficient post-harvest and storage handling, limited access to markets and financial services.

It is necessary to quote the words of a farmer who participated in a focus group discussion in ward 12, "*In the past we used to see extension officers visiting villages and training people on good farming practices and sustainable management of the environment*" Another member of a producer group in ward 19 asked, "*What is government policy concerning people like us in arid areas about availing farming inputs and hybrid seeds?" We don't have inputs here!*

According to Ndou (2007) development partners should facilitate and offer assistance where rural dwellers lack capacity, for example financing, access to credit and technical knowledge. It is also the desire of this study to quiz the position of government on the effectiveness of its role in assisting food insecure communities.

4.2.7 Economic deprivation

The challenges to access food can also be attributed to systemic poverty and market functionality that makes communities economically incapacitated. Burchi and De Muro (2012) advanced an income-based approach to food insecurity which stresses that low incomes curtail the economic access to food. Socio-economic disparities are characterized by the ownership and productivity of livestock as the main determinant and generator of wealth in Buhera. The study also observed that there are limited financial services and little technical support to new entrepreneurs and small businesses which shrink the already tight space for off-farm income generating projects. The farmers also have limited marketing skills when it comes to trading produce in the market systems accessible to them. Farmers also indicated that they lack bargaining power at markets which make them subject to economic exploitation by urban markets. One subsistence farmer was quoted saying;

"*It is our wish that financial lending institutions extend their hand to small-holder farmers in rural areas so that we have access to loans to finance our agriculture*"

The researcher found out that human potential also suffers at the backdrop of natural disasters such as droughts and worse in situations where institutions for coping are very weak. A villager in ward 12 chronicled,

Livestock such as goats is our source of wealth here in Buhera but because there is limited access to markets we end up devaluing our livestock to meet immediate basic needs like food, more so during droughts like the elnino-induced we experienced in 2015 we sold many and lost many due to drought related deaths.

4.2.8 Gender inequities

Another aspect which is overlooked with regards to issues of food security is the deep rooted gender inequities. It is important to note that gender equity and women empowerment is crucial to household resilience. The patriarchal society in Buhera sees women being responsible for many of the social and

economic tasks that directly affect household adaptive capacity and risk reduction. Be that as it may, shocks can be especially difficult for women due to their restricted control over resources and economic benefits leading to a chain of negative coping mechanisms and increased household vulnerability and insecurity.

Previous food security programs did not work towards creating spaces for equitable decision making at household and community levels yet gender inclusion is a step towards achieving any development goals. Donovan and Cavene (2011) noted that gender inclusivity has positive outcomes towards realizing the goal of ensuring a food secure society. They understood that "joint decision making" and ownership and control of resources afford both women and men the chances to outdo cultural barriers to alleviating hunger and starvation. Female participants in ward 26 had this to say "*as women the current environment does not create opportunities for us to take part in many programs mainly because we don't have control over economic household/community assets like land and livestock*."

Another middle aged woman remarked, " *the problem is that we as women bear the responsibility of ensuring that a family is fed, so the whole family looks up to us including men also who are the household heads. So we are saying let there be equal representation in food programs and decision making.*"

4.3 Indicators of lack of positive peace in Buhera

The research also succeeded to identify indicators of lack of positive peace that contribute to the state of food insecurity in the district. Since the research is underpinned by human needs and positive peace theories it established the indicators learning from the systems thinking propounded by the Institute of Economics and Peace in its Positive Peace Reports (2015& 2016). These indicators were narrowed down and interpreted in a context specific way so that they relate to the real situation in Buhera. Among the indicators that will be discussed is life satisfaction, resilient nature of communities, poor local governance, poor business environment, inequitable distribution of resources, suppression of the rights of others, poor social cohesion, restricted flow of information, and low levels of human capital.

The factors or pillars of positive peace interact with societies and their correlation can be used to determine the peacefulness of a society and are also responsible for leveling an environment where basic needs are delivered and enjoyed. As these factors are discussed, some cannot be deviated from the factors that contribute to food insecurity that were discussed at the beginning of the chapter.

4.3.1 Level of life satisfaction

Surviving does not mean thriving

It is important to investigate how people grade their life satisfaction since it helps in determining the given community's state of positive peace, its ability to cope and adapt to stresses and shocks that leads to food insecurity. The researcher is very much convinced that although it is human nature to seek more comfort, more wealth and human needs, the people of Buhera are far from being satisfied. The people are surviving under tough conditions that undermine their potential and capabilities. Oxfam-UNDP/GEF Report (2015:30) reports that due to the recurrent natural disasters there is continued decrease in performance and school drop outs by the youth as they abandon education to look for food. The report also highlighted that the aged and physically challenged persons are the most vulnerable to droughts and they are undernourished and some died during years of droughts. A participant in a focus group discussion can be remembered for saying,

…this is not life; imagine having just one meal a day, sending a child who last ate yesterday in the evening to school. We desire a life where we can have all the basics, proper food, health and money for education.

Women are said to be bearing the load of catering for the welfare of children especially providing food yet their coping capacity is limited. ZimVAC (2012) reported that approximately 30% of the children under the age of five were undernourished hence this shows the low quality of life in Buhera. The focus group discussions made the researcher aware that due to the living conditions in Buhera men were migrating to areas like Chimanimani, Rusape and even Mozambique to look for better opportunities. Despite all these hardships that the people are going through it was shocking to realize some people seem to be satisfied with their living conditions, satisfied in the sense that they embrace their poverty, lacking hope and the courage to transform their miserable lives into better lives.

4.3.2 Resilient nature of communities

The researcher learned that the district continues to be exposed to shocks and being rated amongst the most vulnerable districts in Zimbabwe. That is evidence to show that the communities are not resilient enough to withstand catastrophes. Resilience is when a community has the ability to quickly recover from or withstand and absorb the impact of a shock. Therefore community resiliency is underpinned by a legion of factors some of which were discussed earlier. For example the economic status of a household can

determine their ability to withstand or recover from a drought. Household assets like livestock, community assets like weirs and small irrigation schemes, sound natural resource management approaches, technical know-how, community participation and government support all contribute equally in strengthening resilience (World Vision: 2015). From the analysis of each of these and other factors it justified to conclude that resilience is very low amongst the people of Buhera. Resilience is a clear determinant/indicator of positive peace since it enhances people's capacities to attain basic human needs even during the worst of times.

4.3.3 Poor local governance

Well-functioning governance is vital in creating and sustaining positive peace. Governance at a district level involves local leadership structures including traditional leaders, Rural District Council (RDC) and government technical arms that facilitate development. More importantly the RDC and government departments bears much of the responsibility since they legitimately represent communities hence they should be responsive to its needs and engage the people regardless of their political affiliation, identity or social status.

As reflected earlier in this chapter it is evident that the governance systems are inept in trying to execute plans or policies that usher in positive peace and address food insecurity in the district. Worth noting is the fact that the RDC and several other government technical departments work as parallel or separate entities which have different and varied goals hence this is contrary to ideals of positive peace which believes in the interaction of systems in achieving common goals. These should therefore work to enhance peacefulness and safety through improving for example, human development, economic development and environmental protection. The study found out that there are low levels of interaction between these structures and the people hence the people feel that the government is not responsive to their needs.

More so the people expressed concern over the incapacity of the government to resuscitate and maintain public institutions like clinics, schools and community assets which exacerbate vulnerability. Participants from a focus group discussion in ward 26 said that they were not informed about the use of development funds which parliamentarians receive from government and some were bitter about the way government aid is sometimes distributed on partisan basis. This is however unhealthy to sustain positive peace since such acts can fuel civil resistance, political tensions and violence. It was also recommended by one

councilor that there was need for all activities to be well documented and be transparent and regulated to make violence and corruption more difficult to conceal.

4.3.4 Poor businesses environment

The business environment is not very much enabling in Buhera because there are barriers to entry for the majority due to lack of employment which can create opportunities for people to expand their potential. Some of the barriers are as a result of the local peoples' inability to access financing institutions and a gender based barrier on the part of women due to their lack of ownership and control over resources. A sound economic environment enhances the enjoyment of economic freedom which lessens civic grievances and can be crucial for ensuring diversity in terms of means by which households can source food. Findings from a focus group discussion showed that there is stifled competition in markets for farmers who produce goats, chickens, sorghum and ground nuts. A participant in ward 17 remarked, "*For food security to be fully achieved there is need for the establishment of micro-enterprises that may pull many households out of poverty and also a business environment where we can fully exercise our capabilities*"

Sometimes local producers are trapped in unprofitable trade due to a number of factors e.g. the cost of transporting agricultural products from Buhera to Mutare or Birchnough Bridge. Similarly buyers of certain produce are restricted to engage the locals due to poor roads they have to travel in the district. Ease of doing business is enabled by a sound business environment, good transport system, communication and an existing base of human capital yet the district of Buhera is so primitive.

4.3.5 Equitable distribution of resources

In relation to the above equitable distribution of resources is also facilitated by sound business environment which is fair and profitable to all individuals involved in business. Distribution of resources is also influenced by gender dynamics whereby women are not restricted to own and control valuable economic resources. This inhibits them from venturing into small businesses due to lack of capital. These factors show a circular link with other factors discussed earlier showing the systemic nature of these factors on creating an optimum environment where human potential can flourish.

Research has also shown that in terms of household income, the distribution is uneven with rural areas being characterized by low incomes due to low levels of employment. This renders rural communities vulnerable and unable to meet their nutritional needs because of lack of entitlements that improves their

livelihoods. Sen (1981:434), views food insecurity as a result of failure of one to be entitled to any endowments that ensures access to enough food. In most instances a household's level of disposable income is a fairly good predictor of access to basic human needs including food. Positive Peace Report (2015) states that violence in all its forms is more likely to occur in areas where there is unequal distribution of resources as in the case of Buhera structural violence is prevalent due to chronic food insecurity.

4.3.6 Acceptance of the rights of others

This aspect is a more complex one because it involves many rights which accrue to different people in different settings and it is a strong pillar of positive peace. It guarantees basic rights and freedoms and the informal cultural and social norms that relate to interaction of people and allows appreciation of one another between different ethnic, religious, political, social status and gender differences in a given society. This factor proves to be more connected to other pillars of positive peace because it supports and strengthen positive peace in a systemic way. For example in Buhera the local authorities and other development agencies are ignoring the rights of communities to participate in decision making and ownership of development projects which is a direct threat to positive peace and food security. This is so because the people may eventually feel discontent and resist violently to the incompetence of the responsible authorities.

In another way restricting communities to take part in projects limit their capacities to fight hunger and poverty hence an environment where basic rights are enjoyed is fertile for sustainable peace to prevail, human security and enjoyment of basic human needs. As discussed earlier, communities in Buhera are also divided along political lines since sometimes government aid is distributed on partisan basis which violates the rights of other groups to belong to a political grouping of their choice and their right to basic needs. In another dimension Buhera is also composed of people from the Apostolic Sects who in many scenarios are inhibited to participate one way or the other in development projects due to conflicting religious ideologies. In most cases their religious rights and freedoms are infringed.

At this point it is necessary to remember the words of a woman who is an apostle in ward 27, " *some NGOs and the department of social services distribute food and non-food items on Saturday when some of us will be attending church services*" another man remarked in ward 12 that,

I don't understand their perception on us (some of the field officers from government technical departments and NGOs) because you find a situation where they want to create ward structures say like a disaster management committee (DMC) you find yourself being left out to form the committee even when the masses preferred you, they think we are incompetent.

More important to discuss is the fact that when the rights of communities are not recognized not even a small project can succeed, all endeavors are deemed to fail despite how much resources have been invested on a project. For example if the Environmental Management Agency (EMA)does not recognize the authority of traditional leaders as custodians of environmental protection in a territory within their jurisdiction environmental laws will be doomed to fail because there will be no local by-laws formulated and enforced by the community to protect the local environment.

4.3.7 Poor Social Cohesion

The research also found out that good social cohesion is fundamental in the implementation of food security programs and even in a way that sustain positive peace. Communities in Buhera were identified as lacking good social cohesion being divided along villages, totems, political affiliations, gender, religion and wards. These loose relations are however a condition that weakens community capacities in resisting and absorbing shocks in a collective manner. Therefore good relationships within communities can serve as the catalyst for bringing together diverse groups in society which leads to actions that ensure/or strengthen pillars of positive peace in any given place. For example food security programs require community participation hence if the communities do not relate well food security initiatives are doomed to fail. In fragile societies improving social cohesion may help communities in identifying and addressing fault lines caused by domestic violence, land disputes or political differences. A beneficiary in ward 19 remarked, "…*sometimes disputing over differences slow the progress of the programs which are meant to benefit us despite our backgrounds, political differences or religious belief. There has always been a selection bias when it comes to selecting beneficiaries by the local leadership depending on their relationship with the people.*"

With regards to the above statement it is important to note that focal people in leadership roles do have the capacity to influence large scale social change. Therefore establishing good relationships between key persons or among social groups sets a stage to deliver opportunities for peace and food security. Whenever

intergroup relations are strong, the society's resilience is strengthened, thereby facilitating better outcomes that bring forth development.

This pillar of positive peace vividly interconnects with other factors discussed earlier showing that positive peace and food security initiatives are multi-faceted variables which needs a holistic approach in trying to deal with them. This is because societies these times often face pivotal moments, where there are several factors which align, such that certain programing designs can be altered to meet the demands of the situations. Thus these are moments when good cohesion can be a critical feature for progress. When differences are well managed due to good governance at community levels people are brought together and there is collective resilience.

4.3.8 Limited access to information

Moving on, access to information is also another important factor identified as crucial to positive peace. Without doubt in relation to the factors already discussed in this chapter one can intuitively say the community in the Buhera district has limited access to information. The poor state of infrastructure like roads, poor communication networks, poor health and nutrition knowledge and outdated farming practices is sufficient enough to show that accessing efficient and effective information remains a challenge to the communities. In this age, accessing reliable and quality information is crucial to a well-informed community capable of making considered and rightful decisions.

A care group leader (CGL) from ward 25 remarked, " *we are informed that the high rates of stunting in the district is as a result of lack of adequate nutritious food and poor young child feeding practices of which the latter is as a result of lacking knowledge and misinformation*"

In ward 17 members of a Village Savings and Lending group (VSL) also said, "*When we go to the markets to sell our agricultural products such as groundnuts and goats we sometimes under price and undervalue our products due to lack of information about the current exchange rates of commodities in the country."* This showed that lack of access to information has negative implications on food security yet access to information is one of the indicators of positive peace in any given society.

4.3.9 Low levels of human capital

A community's level of human capital is very critical in determining its likelihood to withstand shocks since human capital is the society's stock of human potential. It also represents the economic value of

society that is realized from the improved education system, health and the state of the youthful groups. The research findings indicated that though literacy rates in Buhera are relatively high levels of human capital are low since the economically active are forced to go and look for greener pastures elsewhere. Many other factors including those that have been discussed contribute to human capital. For example access to information creates a well-informed citizenry, technical know-how is essential for farmers; equitable distribution of resources and economic potential all shape the human resource base of a society. High levels of human capital entails resilience because communities will be having the necessary technical expertise required to offer solutions and act to address challenges facing their communities.

4.4 The components of the ENSURE program that are reinforcing pillars of positive peace

This section completes to answer the research aim and objectives by presenting the components of the ENSURE program that facilitates and enhance food security from household to community level. The researcher sensibly identified the components as effective in bringing social positive change and enhancing positive peace hence the circular link between the USAID-funded food security programs and positive peace is laid bare. These factors also work as a system to deliver one common goal thus to achieve food security and positive peace there is need for a multi-sectoral development programming. These components include; building stakeholder synergies, demonstration of good governance, disaster risk reduction, creating viable business networks, community participation, knowledge transfer to communities, economic development, upholding the rights of every citizen, gender equity in nutrition, improving agricultural infrastructure, environmental protection and resilience. These factors collectively lead to improved household and community food security but however a microscopic analysis would lead to an understanding that they enhance positive peace.

4.4.1 Building effective stakeholder synergies

The program from its onset thrived to build effective stakeholder synergies for shared security by incorporating various technical departments from the government, RDC, community leadership and other organizations like SAFIRE, SNV and ICRISAT that offer technical assistance. Since all NGOs compliment government efforts World Vision is complimenting the initiatives of the GoZ under the Food and Nutrition Cluster in ZIMASSET. The program partners with AGRITEX, Forestry Commission, EMA, MoHCC, MoWAGCD, Min of Labour, Publicc Works and Social Welfare, Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development, Civil Protection Unit and Ministry of Rural Development, Culture and Heritage.

These synergies are crucial in delivering the project outcomes since there is involvement of expertise to offer assistance in all nutrition sensitive aspects (World Vision: 2012).

A councilor who participated in the FDGs can said,

...these people (WV officers) are helping us a lot and in areas where they do not have sufficient knowledge they bring experts from various ministries, as you can see we are here constructing this weir an engineer from the Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation Development is frequently brought to the site to inspect and give directions on construction. So I can say these people are the middlemen between us and the government.

The program is working to strengthen the communities and institutions that serve as catalysts for sustainable and enhanced food security systems. By so doing the program is building a sound foundation for transformative change. According to USAID (2015:44) transformative change is systemic in that it changes the structures, institutions and other enabling factors that have an effect on livelihoods and lives of the most vulnerable. This is also a way of improving capacities of these institutions to be responsive to the needs of the rural people and also informing national policies for improved conditions in rural communities. These synergies are crucial in that they bring the GoZ closer to its citizens through various government departments so that it keeps abreast with the emerging trends and identify societal needs thus cultivating a culture of positive peace.

4.4.2 Demonstration of good governance in food security policies

In connection to the above factor ENSURE program is demonstrating an aspect of good governance in its operations. This can be seen from the nature of the program which is an all-stakeholder driven initiative that aims at addressing food security from all angles and eradicating every possible barrier. The research also realized that the communities are also an integral part of the program since they have power to influence programming. More important to note is the fact that though equitable governance is beyond the scope of the program, its programming has potential to influence dynamics that determine negative or positive change in the quest to empower communities. Thus these serves as the building blocks of individual esteem, social cohesion, gender equality and effective local governance systems. Thus USAID (2015:15) states that USAID-funded programs,

...embraces among other things social accountability as an operational approach to empowering vulnerable and disadvantaged populations by strengthening their ability to demand the opportunities that will allow them to improve their own food security, while facilitating greater transparency and responsiveness of the public and private institutions responsible for providing those opportunities.

The program also ensures inclusive beneficiation of communities regardless of one's political affiliation, religion or social background. For example the participants in focus group discussions highlighted that the WV officers are very strict on issues of alienating other members of the communities. They said wearing of political regalia or chanting of political slogans was prohibited during WV programs like workshops, meetings, construction of community assets and food distributions. Unlike government food security programs which are sometimes politicized the program under study was observed to be conflict sensitive and geared towards establishing peaceful societies. A beneficiary from ward 25 remarked,

... they unite us and encourage us to be involved in this program peacefully and we have realized that for us to make these programs successful everyone's hand is needed, so you will put political, religious and social differences aside.

4.4.3 Disaster Risk Reduction

The researcher also learnt that the program has a component of disaster risk reduction which is vital in scaling up resilience and decreasing the potential or likelihood of recurrent disasters that may affect the communities in future. Disaster risk reduction is important for achieving food security since communities' coping mechanisms are strengthened and it also contribute to building lasting and positive peace in that the environment for human potential to flourish will be created. The program established structures in every ward such as Care Groups (CGs), Environmental-Sub Committees (ESCs) and Village Savings and Lending (VSL) to improve the prospects of the program's sustainability and success overtime. These structures are self-sustaining and are composed of the beneficiaries who receive technical assistance from WV, its partners and government technical departments. Members in these structures receive advanced training on disaster preparedness and risk reduction such that they are able to map their disaster management plans that can further be utilized for programing purposes. According to World Vision (2016) a risk communication plan that was formulated in ward 19 through the facilitation of SAFIRE a

partner of WV was used by the Department of Social Services for programming the government food-for-work projects.

In addition, the program has invested heavily on establishing and rehabilitating productive community assets such as small-holder irrigation schemes, boreholes, deep wells and simple gravity-fed community dams. According to World Vision (2012) in the past 17 years there has been limited central government funding to local government through per capita grants for the refurbishment of such infrastructure. Under ENSURE these assets are aimed at bringing a positive gain to community livelihoods through the production of commercial value chains and cash crops therefore resulting in a positive return on investment. These assets reduce the deleterious effects that disasters or shocks have on both the household and entire community's development hence food security is enhanced as well as levels of positive peace in society since there will be potential for human potential to flourish even in times of social and economic stresses.

4.4.4 Creating viable business networks

The Institute of Economics and Peace (IEP) identified an enabling business environment as a critical pillar of positive peace (Positive Peace Report, 2016). Similarly the ENSURE program also identified the need for creating viable business networks for sustained food security in the district. The researcher noted that the people in Buhera depend on markets for livelihoods and agricultural inputs, goods and services and their continued access to and availability of food. However these people often face challenges that limit their ability for participating profitably in these market systems hence it drives them away from their prospects for food security. This result from the interconnected systemic constrains such as lack of access to credit, resources and knowledge; geographical remoteness and prohibitive and restrictive social norms.

ENSURE is working to overcome these challenges by creating horizontal linkages in communities whereby VSLs, producer groups and marketing cooperatives share knowledge about lessons learnt, the possible risks for new opportunities, unfair and fair market prices and competitive pricing (World Vision: 2015). ENSURE also facilitate credit access to agro-dealers, improve their commercial credit-worthiness, and monitor input and output markets. It also leverages existing funding windows through commercial banks such as the Central Bank of Zimbabwe, with which development talks occurred during program design. The program is supporting agro-dealer associations and networks to build peer learning and increase capacity to access group lending opportunities. It also work with provincial-level agro-dealer

networks to setup schemes for agro-dealers to access inputs on credit from input supply companies and commercial credit from banks (World Vision: 2017a).

More so, the program also facilitates market agreements between the rural farmers and an already existing market base. For example goats in Buhera are being sold at a marketing infrastructure built by ENSURE in ward 29 where a goat auction is held monthly encouraging buyers to come and purchase goats at regulated fair prices. Producers of groundnuts have been linked with Lyons Maid, Charons, Nutresco and Willards which serves as a ready market for their produce (World Vision: 2015). ENSURE also focus on input supply markets to improve the quality of production through access to improved seeds, fertilizers, and other inputs. Simultaneously, ENSURE is partnering with private sector companies like Delta Beverages which assists sorghum farmers with accessing inputs and serving as the ready market for their output (World Vision: 2015).

A farmer in ward 19 was full of praises for ENSURE, " *The program has assisted us in many ways, now we no longer have to worry about where to get inputs and sell our produce. At least the little we produce is now profitable and has an impact on our lives since the income guarantees our ability to purchase food"*

The study also revealed that there is enhanced economic development at household level in that agricultural productivity is improved as well as other off-farm income generating projects such as VSLs and better market linkages. ENSURE is therefore contributing to positive peace through accelerating economic and human security.

4.4.5 Community Participation

Community participation is at the heart of the program since the program identified the need to involve those who face the challenges. Community participation entails treating people with dignity in the sense that they have the worthiness or capacity to participate and it also ensures transparency and accountability. Including beneficiaries throughout the planning and implementation phases of program give communities the power to influence decision making since they will be identifying the barriers to food insecurity in their context and how best they feel the challenges can be addressed. Community participation also instills a sense of ownership of the program to communities such that the program objectives are likely to be attained long after the program life cycle ends, thus capacity building.

ENSURE formulated structures in wards some of which have been mentioned earlier, which include CGs, VSLs, DMCs, ESCs, Water Management Committees (WMCs) and Producer Groups (PGs). These structures are self-sustaining and only receive technical support through workshops and trainings for skills development and improved efficiency. A farmer in ward 25 remarked, "*We have had many programs in this district but this one is unique in the sense that we, the beneficiaries have to take the active role in addressing our challenges. They assist us with knowledge and information that we don't have…*" Hence ENSURE program is building positive peace by weaving a fabric of resilience in the communities by way of engaging them.

Another important aspect to note is that community participation improves social cohesion among groups of people in that when the people come together say for construction of a community asset like a dam they realize that there is power in unity and better outcomes when people work hand in glove. The WV staff together with government technical departments, RDC involved the community leadership (village heads and councilors) in ranking the assets they preferred first and communities are making significant contribution towards the creation or rehabilitation of such assets to improve ownership and increase longevity of care (World Vision: 2012). It is therefore reasonable that this program is aimed at creating sustainable food systems hence positive feedback loops in the lenses of positive peace can be seen.

World Vision (2012), reported that the RDC and government departments were used to hiring consultants who provided cheap and unskilled labor to construct and rehabilitate community assets. This means that the local people were sidelined from the process and missed an opportunity for skills development and ownership. Trained CGLs and VHWs (Village Health Workers) are now the leading focal persons with regards to community health, DMCs overlooks and manage all potential disasters that can befall a community and the PGs now serves as human capital in the agricultural spheres (World Vision: 2015). Interestingly it is notable that the multi-faceted model implied in this program has overarching benefits of contributing to peaceful environments where possible physical and structural violence is minimized.

4.4.6 Knowledge and information transfer

The program identified the knowledge and information gaps in the district hence it imbedded this aspect of knowledge and information transfer. Knowledge and information is critical in that a well-informed society can better cope with disastrous situations and can maintain a peaceful environment at all times. The program as part of its exit strategy values knowledge transfer as a key component of building

resilience within the communities (World Vision: 2015). For example to improve low quality agricultural outputs the program is increasing access to knowledge, and creating adoption and demand for new technologies and agricultural practices. The researcher realized that the program was strengthening extension services by bringing in partners like SNV, SAFIRE and AGRITEX to assist farmers by educating them about 'climate smart' approaches like conservation agriculture, NRM, new technologies, market information and also veterinary services.

ENSURE through its SO2 under the division of VSLs is training VSL members in wards about financial literacy so that especially women entreprenuers gain the necessary knowledge to be competent in their business endevours. This makes them become informed when taking financial decisions especially during the stages of investing in a particular initiative. More so communities structures such as Asset Management Committees (AMC) are also created under ENSURE whereby people are being trained about their roles and governance with regards to the handling of community assets. AMCs provide leadership and maintain group cohesion as it relates to the use and maintenance of the asset. Specifically, committees; facilitate the crafting and enforcement of the constitution (including conflict resolution); conduct routine monitoring checks at the sites and identify areas for maintenance; facilitate the production of maintenance plans and mobilize resources for maintenance (World Vision: 2015).

In a focus group discussion a member of the Asset Management Committee said, "…*we now boast of being knowledgeable, they have been educating us and imparting information on us so that on our own we can be able to assist ourselves.*"

This factor like any other factors discussed so far has an interconnection with other factors of positive peace in that access to information eventually lead to human capital, leads to economic development, improved social cohesion and effective local governance systems.

4.4.7 Gender equity in food security and nutrition

The researcher was also informed through literature search that the program carried a barrier analysis to strategize on the possible solutions to food insecurity and gender inequity was identified as a barrier to physical and economic access to food by some members of the society. Just like poverty, food insecurity is no accident; there are underlying causes to it. Discriminatory gender practices in Buhera District hold back the effectiveness of the program and development of marginalized communities, to the detriment of both women and men. Addressing inequality helps tackle issues of crippling poverty, high levels of risk,

vulnerability and food insecurity. ENSURE recognize the roots and costs of gender discrimination and inequality to the entire program hence its inclusion is an independent cross-cutting Strategic Objective in the program design. Gender based violence was also identified as a threat to household food security (World Vision: 2017a).

According to World Vision (2012), the agriculture and marketing component recorded that 69% of producer farmers are women thereby increasing their capabilities and potential. The report also indicates that some program beneficiaries are no longer experiencing gender based violence due to the periodic dialogues and FDGs they have with WV staff. More so, the study showed that women had limited access to and control over household and community economic resources which limit their potential and enjoyment of personal positive peace. Through ENSURE gender equity is promoted as a reflection process within communities for increased participation of women in key decision-making processes and public forums.

In a focus group discussion in ward 12 the chairperson (a woman) of the construction team of a weir expressed joy over the empowerment of women. She chronicled, " *you see I am the one leading the construction team, in the past it was rare finding a woman holding such a position, on this construction site we also have many women taking part...*"

The program is also facilitating gender dialogues through Social Action and Analysis programs that are aimed at bringing a new dynamic to the gender-power relations in societies since resources and food allocation has been perceived as unequal in most circumstances (World Vision: 2017a). The program tries by all means to maintain a 50/50 representation between men and women in all decision making bodies such as the WMCs, DMCs, ESCs and food distribution committees. Furthermore resilience-building interventions under SO3 facilitates community dialogue for equitable access to disaster preparedness and risk mitigation information, educating women and youth for participation in planning, identifying key factors of vulnerability. Cross cutting activities under SO4 addresses root causes of marginalization and vulnerability of women, creating spaces for community dialogue and deep transformation in relationships and attitudes through an analysis of how traditional gender roles and power relationships affect nutrition, health, food security, and disaster risk reduction, thus reinforcing and supporting sustainability (World Vision, 2015b).

4.4.8 Environmental Protection

A critical element of community resilience toward the effects of climate change is the long-term conservation of renewable natural resources (e.g., soil, vegetation, and water), underlying agricultural production and food security. The impacts of weather-related shocks in Buhera are being mitigated through sound natural resource management, conservation practices, and effective planning (World Vision: 2015), yet there has been a history of poor NRM in the district given the inextricable links between food insecurity and environmental degradation because nature serves as a source of opportunities. Natural resources can motivate communal conflicts if pressure on scarce resources increases such as the case in Buhera, because the people depend on natural resources for their livelihoods hence access to and control of natural resources will become everyone's aim. For example the 2015 drought led to many deaths of livestock due to the fact that the grazing lands were overloaded with the potential of fueling communal conflicts.

A village head in ward 19 was recorded saying, "*...the program staff is working on expanding environmental regulation by involving us the community leadership in local by-law formulation so that we create laws that prohibits people from depleting our natural resources*." Participatory natural resource preservation is widely encouraged which involves the grassroots in identifying and mapping resource availability, potential environmental risks and recommend sustainable levels of extraction and use. The NRM strategies include rangeland management and sustainable management and harvesting of wood and equitable resource distribution. Sustainable and equitable management of natural resources is vital for ensuring food security and positive peace in that any alteration or disturbances on the environment can trigger food insecurity and minimize the potential of the people to flourish.

4.4.9 Stepping Up Resilience

The main thrust of the program is to 'step up resilience' so that communities will be better off on their own long after the program ends. This component of resilience results from the successful interrelation of outcomes of all the factors discussed before. For example community participation, knowledge transfer, strong stakeholder synergies, viable economic systems, disaster risk reduction and environmental protection all ensures the enhanced resilient nature of communities. The programs' foundation is built upon a strategy of immediate intervention, short and long-term training and capacity building for the near future and lastly in assistance in planning and forecasting for change permanently (World Vision, 2015b).

The program is centered on the goal of introducing, improving and increasing self-sustaining activities within the beneficiary community.

The researcher noted that the USAID-funded programs advances social accountability whereby communities must have skills to actively demand for the needs they require to better their food security and wellbeing. Social accountability therefore ensures the sustainability of programs by facilitating community-based approaches for identifying opportunities, resources and constrains to food security. Positive Peace Report (2016) stated that resilience is critical to development and reinforces positive peace. The report also argues that positive peace offers a holistic framework which can be used to determine why some countries or communities cope well in disasters hence food insecurity is easy to address where pillars of positive peace that were discussed are strong.

4.5 Chapter summary

The chapter discussed and analyzed comprehensively the findings of the research thus providing answers to the research questions, objectives and the aim. The factors that contribute to food insecurity in Buhera were examined and linked to the absence of positive peace and the attitudes structures and institutions that promote positive peace. However the chapter also thrived to highlight convincing factors that show that positive peace is lacking in Buhera and ended by identifying the components of the ENSURE program that have a circular link with positive peace, particularly in a way that strengthen its pillars. The chapter also discussed the data collected from the research being guided by the theories and concepts that underpins this research and the measures of positive peace as propounded by the Institute of Economics and Peace in 2016 but in a context specific manner that offers solutions to the problems in the study area.

The chapter was able to expose the relationship between USAID-Funded food security programs and positive peace by distinguishing the ENSURE program from other food security initiatives and policies. It was noted from this chapter that the program has got much more positive outcomes that shows it is transformative and peace sensitive.

Chapter Five

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter concludes the research by making conclusions and recommendations basing on the research findings discussed in the preceding chapter. Food security and positive peace are closely linked variables though difficult to quantify but bring forth positive outcomes if they are married up. Therefore the chapter will establish conclusions with regards to this relationship by specifically asserting the challenges of achieving one of the two aspects without the other and the benefits that are realized when these two are embraced in rural Zimbabwe. The chapter also brings recommendations for policy makers, GoZ, development agencies and non-governmental organizations to re-orient their approaches to food security in rural communities so that they consider transforming institutions, structures and attitudinal barriers that drives and maintain a state of food insecurity in the rural spheres.

5.2 Conclusions

It must be accepted that without a better understanding on how to conceptualize and identify factors that support positive peace, it is impossible to know and implement food security policies and programs that really suits any given community. Essentially identifying and reinforcing pillars of positive peace that are weak contribute much to the success of food security programs. It is also practical to implement food security initiatives and fostering positive peace at one go for sustainable food security to be achieved. More so, identifying how food insecurity infringes positive peace offers a new thinking about peace and the circular link between it and food security.

Having undertaken this research, it is safe to say rural communities in Zimbabwe are far away from enjoying positive peace and it is a clear fact that where food insecurity is prevalent positive peace is likely to be missing. Evidently where positive peace is strong, sustainable development and other positive socio-economic outcomes will be more likely to be achieved. Basically positive peace is characterized by many other desirable development outcomes such as better performance on well-being measure, good governance, equality, strong business environments and enjoyment of basic freedoms by societies.

The researcher after conducting the study understood that positive peace ensures that communities i.e. the ordinary men and women, boys and girls must be generally doing well, cherishing life with minimal

constrains to their potential. More importantly the prevailing environment should ensure that there is human safety and security and ultimately human development thus guaranteeing quality life.

In addition positive peace also provides a comprehensive framework for addressing challenges like food insecurity because all underlying causes to a problem will not escape the holistic approach offered through efforts to scale up positive peace. Adding another layer of complexity, the institutions, attitudes and structures that build positive peace are complex, non-linear and multidimensional hence they work in a systemic way complementing each other for the full attainment of positive peace. More importantly positive peace advances an understanding about whether societies are progressing towards real peace and away from negative peace or not, and also whether they are fostering resilience against unforeseen shocks or becoming resistant to societal changes.

5.3 Recommendations

The researcher is confident that this study has contributed a share in the body of knowledge hence it can be relied upon for factual information henceforth recommendations have been made to inform those who work in peace, development work and food security related domains. The recommendations are directed to NGOs and development agencies on one hand and policy makers and the government on the other hand.

5.3.1 Recommendations for NGOs and development agencies

- Effective synergies are vital in systematically addressing problems such as food security in marginalized communities therefore development agencies and NGOs should create and maintain effective synergies because no one factor lead to a problem henceforth the way to address a problem should be holistic.
- NGOs and donor agencies should carry out positive peace assessments before launching projects for effective programming and identifying pillars of positive peace that are closely related to the problem to be addressed.
- NGOs and development agencies should ensure that obstacles that limit the potential of communities are eradicated, such as unequal access for women and the youth to productive resources, assets and economic opportunities.
- Promoting community participation in local institutions and decision making processes is key in achieving anticipated program outcomes and positive peace.

- Identifying some opportunities for supporting and reinforcing positive peace initiatives particularly local projects as components of food security is crucial.

- NGOs and donor agencies should not only measure project successes quantitatively but should try and figure out the socio-economic benefits of implementing a program.

- Capacity development for effective service delivery should always be at the core of programs to ensure that responsible authorities are responsive to people's needs.

5.3.2 Recommendations for policy makers and the government

- The government and policy makers should integrate comprehensive food security and nutrition assessments and analysis into broader poverty, disaster, gender and humanitarian assessments.

- The government should have a strong will and commit resources to strengthen the pillars of positive peace in order to transform the rural societies.

- The government should also effectively monitor all government technical departments deployed to rural districts to check if they are properly fulfilling their obligations.

- The central government should play a major role in mobilizing resources to timeously respond to communities' problems before they graduate into more complex challenges.

- The government should always take the leading role in addressing food security so that it maintains a state of stability in fragile, marginalized and vulnerable societies.

- Diversification of food security sources for the rural people should be enhanced for improved livelihoods.

- Supporting agriculture in rural areas should be at the centre of policy making since agriculture is the source of life for rural communities.

- The policy makers and the government should draft policies bearing in mind that communities in Zimbabwe are not homogenous but that they vary in many ways hence the need to address problems differently.

- Government policies and aid programs should consider whether policies have the potential to promote peace, assessing the likely impact they have on food security and poverty eradication.

5.4 Chapter summary

This chapter concluded the research by giving conclusions basing on the findings of the research that fulfilled the aim and objectives of the study. It can be concluded that beyond doubt there is a nexus between USAID-funded food security programs and positive peace thus affirming the standpoint that food

security and positive peace have a circular relationship. Building positive peace is a shared responsibility which requires the hand of every stakeholder. This research distinguished USAID-funded food security programs from other initiatives arguing that the program which was under study is contributing towards building durable, positive peace in Buhera district. Therefore the conclusions and recommendations advanced in this chapter are meant to encourage other NGOs, development agencies, policy makers and the GoZ to re-orient their approaches to development projects in rural areas so that the problems emerging in this era can be effectively addressed.

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FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Title: *The nexus between USAID-funded food security programs and positive peace: A case of ENSURE program, Buhera.*

My name is Silent Tapiwanashe Besa (R137446W) from Midlands State University in the Department of Development Studies pursuing a Bachelor of Arts Honours Degree. Working under the supervision of Prof J. Matunhu, I am planning to conduct a research on the title stated above hence I invite you to take part in it. I will greatly appreciate your voluntary contribution by providing relevant information related to the research topic. I assure you that the information you are going to provide will be exclusively used for academic purposes only and your responses will be treated with confidentiality. The success of this research heavily relies on your cooperation. Thank you.

Section A

1. What do you understand by the term food security?
2. What do you understand by the term positive peace?
3. Does these fore mentioned variables inter relate? If yes, explain how?
4. Does the prevailing conditions in Buhera afford positive peace a chance?
5. How did the absence of positive peace affect food security in the district?
6. Why despite the fact that Zimbabwe has been independent for long it has been deficient of positive peace?
7. Do you think the ENSURE program is strengthening positive peace structures in your district and how?
8. Why do you think that the program differs from other food security programs in promoting positive peace?
9. Since the launch of the program in the district are there any notable changes in terms of improved food security and positive peace?

Section B

1. What can be done by the government or policy makers as a way to breed positive peace at the same time improving food security?

2. Through your participation in the program is there anything you have noted that you think you have been missing out as a way to address the plight of food insecurity in the district?

3. What type of food security measures do you think can be ideal to address the challenges you are facing?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION